

annual ball

the fifth

1986





*His Divine Majesty
The Lord and Pharoah
Osiris
Surrenders you to the
5th Dimension
Where you have been—
But never seen
Mortal for a moment—
Behold
The 5th Anniversary Ball*

*Friday, February 7, 1986
Fort Whiting Auditorium
Mobile, Alabama*

*Tails or Tuxedo
Floor Length Formals
No Cameras*

*Doors Open 7:00 p.m.
Doors Close 8:45 p.m.
Tableau at 9:00 p.m.*

Rev. May

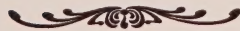




Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/2174.03.25>

The Order of Osiris
"Has - Beens"
invite you to Bid Farewell
to the
1985 King and Queen
Sunday Evening
The 12th of January
Six until Nine P.M.
at the Corral
Mobile, Alabama



Marge Ragone's Guest
2204 Old Court St
Mobile, AL.
36606



1986

the fifth
annual ball





*His Divine Majesty
The Lord and Pharoah
Osiris*

*Surrenders you to the
5th Dimension
Where you have been—
But never seen
Mortal for a moment—
Behold*

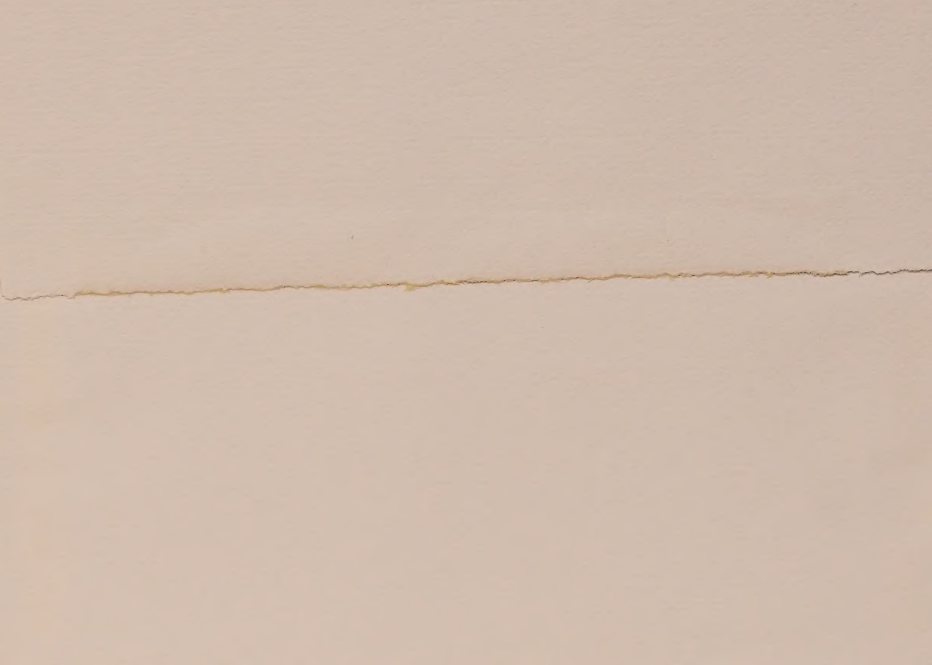
The 5th Anniversary Ball

*Friday, February 7, 1986
Fort Whiting Auditorium
Mobile, Alabama*

Tails or Tuxedo
Floor Length Formals
No Cameras

Doors Open 7:00 p.m.
Doors Close 8:45 p.m.
Tableau at 9:00 p.m.

Shirley





GUESS WHO'S COMING TO MOBILE??

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

... A church for all people
with a special ministry of and
to the Gay and Lesbian community.

INTRODUCTORY COMMUNITY MEETING

WHERE: 4500 Bit and Spur Road

WHEN: Sunday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.

Other churches want to change you
before they'll accept you. MCC
says you are God's child exactly
as you are, and God loves you NOW.

If you have heard about MCC, or
know others who have belonged to
or attended an MCC you know who we
are -- if you haven't, come and
find out that we are the church in
and of the Gay Community -- and we
are beginning a church here in Mobile
that you and your friends will want
to attend. No head trips, no cures,
no changes in your lifestyle -- just
the honest message that God loves
you and all people, and that love
operates today.

FUN

REFRESHMENTS

MUSIC

FOR INFORMATION CALL 476-9442

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
00 WORSHIP 10:30 AM ev. every Sunday	MOVIE: HORROR ROCKY HORROR SHOW AT ESQUIRE WITH OSTRIK	1	2 RAP: Who's on Ton-- Power in Rela- tionships.	3		4 PERRY'S ANNIVERSARY
6 MCC WORSHIP 7:00 P.M. 5:30 New Memb	7	8	9 RAP: Peer Pressure -- Handling your friends.	10	11	12
13 MCC WOR- SHIP-7pm 3:00 Shrimp Bowl at DAVID'S SIT IN VOLLEYBALL	14 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED	15	16 RAP Cross-Genera- tional Rela- tionships	17	18 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS 2-DAY WORKSHOP "The Haunting Church"	19 COLUMBUS DAY
20 MCC WOR- SHIP-7pm 5:30 New Memb	21	22	23 RAP HOLDING HANDS Making a poli- tical state- ment.	24	25	26
27 MCC WOR- SHIP-7pm JU VOLLEYBALL 5:30 New Memb MOTHER-IN-LAW DAY	28	29	30 RAP HOMOPHOBIA -- THEIRS AND OURS	31 HOOKER'S BALL ALL THE BARS HALLOWEEN		

CLASSIFIED ADS

Weekend Sketch Group -- Interested? Call the HELPLINE for information.

WRITERS GROUP -- Meet once a month for social contact and constructive criticism of members' work. Bring a piece of writing for criticism, and keep a log of the number of hours spent writing. Contact Shirley L. at the HELPLINE.

BIKERS (no, silly, not that kind!) are being sought for a bike riding group. Ride, bring lunch and picnic-- weather will be perfect soon.

SOCIETY

MISS BETTY - OWNER
51 S. CONCEPTION ST.
433-9141

SUN. - THURS. 10 A. M. - 2 A. M.
FRI. - SAT. OPEN 24 HOURS



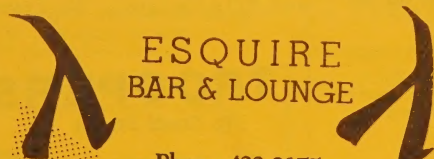
HALLOWEEN

FOR SALE: SCM Electric Typewriter, ribbon spool. Best offer. Evenings 8-10. 342-7891, ask for John.

PLUMBING - Indoors, reasonable rates. Expert service. Call evenings after 6, or Mondays, 476-5171, as for Harry.

CLEANING-INTERIOR PAINTING, WALLPAPER. Organize your precious collectibles?? Excellent references in both communities. 476-9142, ask for Shirley.

BOWLING LEAGUE -- Members of MCC want to form a bowling team to hopefully compete against other gay groups (bars, etc.). At least six teams are needed. Call the HELPLINE if you are interested.



- Phone 433-9175 -
Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. Till
Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 2a.m.
13 South Joachim St. Mobile, Ala.



The Metropolitan Community Church

AT MOBILE

4500 BIT AND SPUR ROAD

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36608

Rev. MARGE RAGONA

Pastor

(205) 476-9142

Volume 1, No. 2

October 1985

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART...

The veil of distaste and misconceptions surrounding the gay segment of the population is nowhere better illustrated than in the film, "God, Gays and the Gospel," a no-nonsense look at the rapid rise of the Metropolitan Community Church.

One of the most poignant plights of gay people in today's world is the denial of their right to worship by most of the traditional organized religions. Almost without exception the Christian faith has taken upon itself the right to refuse gays a part in the Family of God.

The long struggle by MCC founder Rev. Troy Perry to establish a faith, not just for gays but for anyone, is the focus of the film. In concise, to the point terms, the production addresses the sheer magnitude of the work being done and the forward strides being made by Perry and his legion of pastors and congregations.

Since its founding in 1969, MCC has endured everything from ridicule to bombings to burned-out church sanctuaries. More than 17 years later, Perry and his followers have forged a recognized, respected faith wherein all are welcomed. It is a tribute to the ecumenical and accepting nature of this church that 20 per cent of its members are non-gay. It is a true illustration of the overused, misused term, "real Christian people."

Perry, a transplanted Floridian, excluded from the church of his childhood, spent years berating himself as "unacceptable." In the end, he determined that there is no reason -- save for human bigotry and Biblical misinterpretation -- for gays to be denied a right to their faith. Nowhere in the Bible, he points out, is there condemnation of homosexuality as it is understood today. In one of his most moving sermons, he presents a stunning point: "If AIDS is God's 'gift' to the homosexual, then is toxic shock syndrome God's 'gift' to women for being female? ...or is Legionnaires' Disease God's 'gift' to the American Legion for being too patriotic?"

From the perspective of a "straight," the message of "God, Gays, and the Gospel" is very much to the point: No human deserves the right to tell another he or she will never be acceptable in the eyes of God. Moreover, it should be remembered that Perry et al are not working for immediate and total social acceptance, but for establishment of a climate of cooperation and understanding.

No "straight" who professes a concern for human rights should let gays bear this struggle alone.

(Note: N.J.Green is MCC at Mobile's "token straight," our assistant organist. Thank God for our "straight" friends.)

MCC MEMBERS-ATTENTION!

Congregational Meeting, October 27, following worship service. Election of officers, other important business, including coming into agreement with GSS changes.

REMINDER

FROM THE EDITOR--

Our first issue was a roaring success, so the community tells us. We personally wish to thank the bar owners and managers for making the newsletter a reality, rather than the "dream" so many of us have talked about for the last couple of years. At last we have a way to communicate ideas among gays in Mobile. We also want to apologize to Chuck at Troopers for omitting a news item last month. Thanks for bearing with us and our mistakes -- we'll get it right with practice. A word of thanks to all of you out there from the small group at MCC. Because of you the newsletter will continue to grow, to increase our awareness and to solidify the community.

To date we have received the names "Revelations," "Mobile Pride News," and "Genesis." Don't be bashful. Send or call in your suggestion.

We stated our purpose last month, "to offer a news source for the entire community." We are happy to report that this issue, our second, has accomplished that goal. Sincere applause to each organization and business for your participation. We are open to your suggestions and your criticism. Our new feature, "Community Profile" has already been designated for the November issue. Send in the name of someone you wish to acknowledge in a future issue.

Our editorial policy requires that a name and address be submitted along with news copy. Your name and address will not be printed without your written consent, but we must have this information to protect the legal position of the church. Please drop editorial copy or editorial replies at the church or mail them to: MCC Newsletter, P.O. Box 8524, Mobile, Ala. 36608. The deadline for all copy is the Third Monday of the Month.

**NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR WOMEN**

NEWS FROM THE LESBIAN TASK FORCE OF NOW

Two important pieces of legislation are going to be brought to Congress in this year, NOW has informed us. One, is H.R. 230, the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Legislation which is spearheaded by Representative Ted Weiss of Brooklyn, N.Y. and carries the endorsement of 44 other representatives, including Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts, an openly gay legislator. The bill primarily calls for the insertion of the words, "affexional or sexual orientation," throughout the Civil Rights Act of 1964, following the word "color," and in other legislation, like the Equal opportunity Act, where it is inserted after "sex," thus identifying gay and Lesbian discrimination as equal to that against people of color and as pervasive as sexism. Interestingly, the same act speaks against acts of intimidation or violence against gays and Lesbians in the same passage that it speaks about violence against religious groups.

The other piece of legislation is the now infamous McCarran-Walter act, which prohibits certain people from entering the United States because of political or sexual orientation. Farley Mowat, the Canadian author of such dangerous books as the environmental study, "Never Cry Wolf," and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombia's Nobel Prize Winning novelist, were both excluded -- and refused to be singled out as special cases -- under this Act. Gay men and women can be refused entry into the U.S. -- and have been -- by the terms of the McCarran Act. It is important for the McCarran Act to not include gays and Lesbians under the heading of those accused of "moral turpitude."

The legislation above is entitled Immigration Exclusion and Deportation Amendments of 1985. The first is HR 230. Your congressional representative will vote on both of these. Make your wishes known. One letter -- one letter -- can make the difference, because very few letters on any subject are received from constituents, and as many as five or six letters can seem like an avalanche. If you are interested in how to write to Congress, call the HELPLINE for a copy of MCC's booklet, Writing to Congress, from MCC's Department of Christian Social Action.

Bulletin Board

ORDER OF OSIRIS -- "The Rocky Horror Show" Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, Presented by the Order of Osiris and the Esquire House -- at the Esquire House. \$5.00 admission. See an Osiris member or your bartender for tickets.

Less than 140 days to Osiris' 5th Anniversary Mardi Gras Ball, February 7, 1986.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALISTS -- Study series for 4 weeks on Men's Life and Men's Issues. Call the UU's at 342-6834 for information and starting date (near the end of the month.)

2-day Workshop -- The Haunting Church October 18 and 19 at the UU Fellowship 6345 Old Shell Road.

Volleyball -- every 2nd and 4th Sunday, at 2 P.M. at the UU's, weather permitting.



TROOPERS -- Shuffleboard tournaments every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. Pool tournaments every Thursday at 8:30. Some of the best popcorn in Mobile.

CORRAL -- Pool tournament every Monday at 9:00 p.m. Please watch for announcements of upcoming Halloween events.

CPA -- Costume contest at midnight in conjunction with Hooker's Ball.

Free buffet every Sunday at 9:30 p.m.

Watch for "Name that Tune" to begin early November on Sunday evenings.

DAVID'S II -- Special Guest, Halloween Eve through Saturday, Carmen Del Rio.

First Sunday of October begins David's free buffet from 3-9 p.m., and the Tea Dance.

Shrimp boil, Sunday October 13th, from 3 til? To help raise funds for MCC's HELPLINE and newsletter. \$3.00 cover, includes all the boiled shrimp you can eat, along with other goodies.

ESQUIRE -- Rocky Horror Show November 1 and 2 at 9:30 p.m. Get your tickets from Esquire or any Osiris member. \$5.00 per ticket.

PROFILE

Did you enjoy Mobile's Gay Pride 85? Our first profile is, Harry, organizer and leader of Pride 85. Harry was the catalyst that brought together the various elements of the community. It wasn't his first time out, certainly not his first effort for our benefit. Fifteen years in the Mobile area has seen Harry speaking at the University of South Alabama and Springhill College on Gay/Lesbian issues. He was one of the strong leaders of the old Gulf Alliance for Equality as well.

When Harry isn't working on our behalf, he enjoys meeting the public in his retail profession. While there's still daylight after a hard day at work, you might see him out bicycling or running, or on Sundays offering his talents at the Unitarian-Universalists' worship and fellowship. "My religion," Harry said, has given me a lot more direction in my life, and a greater sense of freedom to allow my own beliefs to evolve."

Harry offered the following thoughts about and reflections on Gay Pride '85: '85 was very successful considering the late starting date for planning. '84, our first Gay Pride Activity, made '85 much easier to put together. Adding more organizations -- the UU's and MCC -- added much to '85's success. Without Danni B. '85 would not have come together. A SPECIAL THANKS TO HER.

For 1986 Gay Pride, Harry foresees greatness. "For once, we are starting off with some money, \$186.00, thanks to the bars. We will begin planning at a much earlier date, offering the same type of activities, with more variety, however. We will certainly push for more publicity and participation from all the organizations. We want Gay Pride to be financially self-supporting, and there's no reason it shouldn't be if we all work at it."

When asked what he would change if given the right opportunity, Harry offered the following: "I'd like to see more open Gay/Lesbian businesses, organizations, and individuals come out, and a greater media presence for the community. However, the fear of coming out is still our greatest obstacle. Most of us, including me, still face job discrimination, neighborhood harassment, and the possible loss of our families or their strong disapproval."

In a larger context, Harry went on, "Much of our recent publicity has been derogatory. I feel that the Moral Majority uses us as their biggest fundraiser, particularly now that AIDS has come to the forefront of the news media."

Harry is one of the strongest and most open figures in our Mobile Gay Community, and with his support and leadership, gay Mobile should reach the goals which he is helping us set.

SOCIETY LOUNGE -- Beginning in October, the first weekend each month, Miss Betty will be presenting weekend shows at 10 and 12 midnight. No cover.

SOMETHING TO SELL, SERVICE TO OFFER??
Call 476-9142 for rates and deadlines.
Please NO PERSONALS, except Birthday, Anniversary, Thank You's.

TROOPERS

215 Conti Street

438-9139



HOURS: 11 a.m. - 3 a.m.

54 So. Conception

433-9258

Weekdays -- Noon Till

Weekends -- 24 hours

CORRAL

THERE IS NO LONGER AN EXCUSE FOR SPREADING AIDS

Right now in the gay community, we're faced with some extremely difficult decisions because of AIDS -- sexual decisions affecting our lives and life-styles. We Gaymen have come up with a lot of excuses for avoiding the issue.

We all know that safer sex can reduce the risk of contracting and spreading AIDS. Some practices are more effective than others; some we have questions about.

We all need to make informed decisions, not excuses. You'll probably agree that none of the following excuses justify the pread of AIDS in our community:

"WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?"

It's yours. Your partner's. And it's the community's. Everyone must take a concerned and active role if we're going to stop the spread of this disease.

Here's another common excuse: "If someone doesn't ask me to practice safer sex, I figure that's his decision and I respect it."

Why? Aren't you concerned? Perhaps your partner is just as uncomfortable in raising the issue as you are.

"WHOSE LIFE IS IT, ANYWAY?"

It's yours. Your partner's. And the community's. The excuse, "It's my life," is only partly true. The life of your partner and the well-being of the community are also at stake.

AIDS is not just a physical problem. There are political, social, and economic effects as well. There is already evidence that social freedoms may be restricted because of AIDS. AIDS can be used as an excuse for anti-Gay action and legislation.

Making decisions about sexual practices is difficult. Sticking to those decisions is even more difficult. But this isn't a moral issue; it's a matter of life and death.

"CHANGING MY SEX LIFE ISN'T A CURE FOR AIDS."

That's true. There is no cure or vaccine. And researchers think they are years away from developing one. Safer sexual practices are our best means right now of reducing our risk and stopping the spread of AIDS.

"CHANGE? NOBODY ELSE IS DOING IT!"

The fact is that a major research project conducted by the AIDS Foundation among San Francisco Gaymen revealed that two-thirds of the Gay community is making a serious effort to reduce their risk by practicing safer sex. Two-thirds!

Talk about it. Even though it's a difficult subject for everyone, chances are your partner is just as concerned as you are and would probably welcome a chance to discuss it.

Let's stop making excuses. Let's stop the spread of AIDS.

Reprinted from ACTS 29, Newsletter of
The Atlanta MCC, Jacksonville, Florida

Rectal gonorrhea has declined 86% since the AIDS scare -- people are aware of risks and are changing their sexual habits. Safe sex works.



HOOKEE'S BALL - HALLOWEEN NIGHT -- Presented by all your favorite bars and the Order of Osiris. Prizes for costumes, all bars are involved, begins 7:00 p.m. Hallowe'en night, costumes are invited, and you are especially requested to attend this celebration of what is turning into the second most exciting activity of the year.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Queen Richard, Oct. 9,
from all the folks at Esquire House.



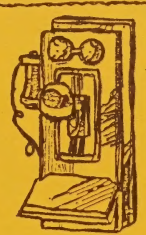
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 5 to Chuck at
Troopers on their 2nd Year of fun and
support of the community.

HAPPY BELATED ANNIVERSARY TO CPA -
We were not notified in time for publication last month, but CPA celebrated
their 2nd anniversary on Sept. 27th.
Great going, guys!



476-9142

Gay
Help-line



We met at

OPEN DAILY NOON TO 6 A.M.

3211 Springhill Ave.

Mobile, AL • 473-5985

from the fellowship

"FREE TO BE"

12TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF MCC

Sacramento, California. The conference got off to an exciting start. Rev. Elders Freda Smith and Nancy Wilson both preached Monday. I especially enjoyed hearing them. The film, "God, Gays, and the Gospel" was also shown for the first time on Monday.

The film, a documentary telling about MCC and what it means, cost about \$100,000 to make. Many unique aspects of MCC were brought out. The fact that MCC has members from every religious background and the highest proportion of women ministers were particularly interesting.

In the business meetings, a great deal was accomplished in the first few days. The Government Structures and Systems proposal was accepted with some minor amendments. Two changes will have the most immediate impact. One is the adoption of the General Council as the governing body of MCC. The General Council will be composed of the Board of Directors and the District Coordinators, thus giving total regional representation at the highest MCC level. The other change is that there will be only commissioned and chartered churches (instead of the three tier system as previously: Study group, mission, chartered church.). At the conference I was an official observer, with a voice, but without vote. In the future, all delegates will have a vote. Each delegate will represent one hundred members or a portion of 100 if the church is smaller. This means that even the smallest church will have a voting delegate.

All of the elders standing for re-election were elected.

I had an opportunity to sing in the Conference Choir, and attended several workshops, including the Sexuality and Spirituality and Spiritual Gifts workshop.

R.P., Delegate

Check it Out

MCC is the largest Gay/Lesbian organization in the world.

NOW (Nat'l Organization for Women) offers insurance for "significant others" (not just physicians, but alternative medicine as well).

Jerry Falwell and his "Moral Majority" are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars across the country to stop Gay/Lesbian rights.

A local printer refused to print our first newsletter because of its content.

A local bank refused to open a joint bank account for a well-known Gay couple.

The Unitarian-Universalist Association openly supports Gay/Lesbian rights.

Mobile Mental Health has actively trained and offers continued support for the Gay Helpline volunteers.

The Gay Helpline is in operation every night from 6 p.m. to midnight for anyone needing someone to talk to -- check it out.

The local bar owners and managers -- Chuck, Miss Betty, Jim, John, Grace and David -- make the printing and mailing of this newsletter possible.

The bar owners and managers donated money and supplies for the kick-off party to celebrate the opening of the Helpline, and that we will be raising funds for the Helpline from time to time, due to their generosity.

...from the pastor

SAUL AND ANOMIE

In the late 1800's, the French sociologist, Emile Durkheim, coined the word ANOMIE (without a name) to explain the psychological state of strangers, people at the edge of social movements with enormous change, and people who belonged to subcultures where they were unsure of what the social expectations were within a dominant group. They felt, as James Baldwin must have, like "nobody knows my name." As a matter of fact, in a true state of anomie, it's more like "I don't even know my own name." Durkheim postulated that when a society is experiencing great anomie, the suicide rate goes up. When I read of Saul, the first king of Israel in the Bible, I realized that even in Biblical times, people knew the concept of anomie, even though they didn't know the word.

Saul lived in an anomic time. He was a soldier who had been trained in the old skills of warfare before iron was invented. Suddenly, there was iron. And iron was so strong that all the weapons he had been taught to use were nearly useless. So he learned to use iron, but he was never comfortable with it. Then the people of his area learned about a new God, and all the things he was used to in the old gods were outdated. To add to his problems, Jahweh decided Saul should be king of Israel. Saul wasn't from a royal family (there weren't any royal families in Israel -- he was the first) and he didn't know how a king behaved, he'd never even had a king. But Jahweh had selected him to be king. And still worse, his son gets friendly with this David fellow -- and he knows there's something strange there -- but can that fellow play the harp! He wasn't even permitted to ask the seer what was going to happen, and feel secure, he had to trust this Jahweh God. Saul learned to adapt -- but he was never happy with the new ways, and when things really got tough, he looked to his old gods and went over to see the Witch of Endor to find out what the enemy had in store. That was where he and Jahweh God parted. Poor Saul. He was caught in a world he hardly understood! Everything was changing, nothing seemed to have a center. How he wished for the good old days, when the gods were secure, the military knew what they were doing, the country had the right kind of folk leading it, and people knew how to behave-- knew the rules. Saul was so confused, he hardly knew his own name any more. He was a real case of anomie. And eventually, he did what Durkheim postulated -- he committed suicide.

Can you see some parallels? Many people today feel that sense of anomie. The world has changed so rapidly that people are frightened. They want some sense of the past to hold on to. God, they pray, make it safe again, let me know what to expect! Many Christians are at that point. The world has changed so greatly that they are frightened. Nuclear energy, great social upheaval -- especially within the time of the baby boomers; new forms of government--like Communism and socialism -- scare them. The questioning of old beliefs and the arising of new ideas --all of these together are frightening for people who remember how simple it was when everybody knew what to expect. When the milk train stopped and the old time religion had meaning for everyone -- when everyone was American and your neighbor wasn't a Cambodian Buddhist, a Russian Jew, a Japanese Taoist and your son or daughter hadn't picked up some new religion like the Moonies. When sexuality and sex roles were simple -- men were men and women were girls, and nobody they knew was gay. People out there are scared. And they want the old time religion that had meaning and they want to go back to the time when everybody knew the rules. Well, it's that kind of time, and Jerry Falwell plays upon the fears of those people, and promises them "The Old Time Gospel Hour" and tells them who the enemy is (us), and they follow him, and he profits, and profits, and profits.

But maybe there's more to it than that. Durkheim was also talking about anomie being a condition for strangers and sojourners and for people in subcultures. Maybe there's something there for us, as well. Gay liberation has called us to come out -- it has asked us to change our ways and to trust God to help us find a way to be a new kind of gay people-- strong, and open, and fearless. And



WELCOME

SOOM AND DIGNITY TO BEGIN IN MOBILE

Efforts are being made to organize two new organizations for gay and Lesbian people in Mobile. According to John P., who is spearheading the drive, the Silver Owls of Mobile (SOOM) and a Dignity chapter are looking for persons interested in these groups.

SOOM is a social group for older people, usually over the age of 40, and for younger people who like to be with older gays and Lesbians.

Dignity is an organization for gay Catholics and their friends. The chapter will be part of the national organization that consists of over 117 chapters across the nation.

"Too often gay and Lesbian Catholics feel alienated from their church. Dignity has been successful in being a bridge for these people to rebuild a religious life. Also, Dignity has been effective in creating a dialogue with the church's hierarchy," said John P.

He noted that the SOOM organization is simply an attempt to bring people together in a social context. "Many older gays and Lesbians simply have no social place to go except the bars, where they are usually ignored by younger people. SOOM will be an attempt to provide a congenial group for dinner parties, theater and other outings.

Anyone interested in SOOM or Dignity is asked to contact John at 342-7891, or the HELPLINE at 476-9142.

FIRST NIGHTERS

People interested in going to theater: Involves joining Joe Jefferson Players (\$25.00 for 6 plays/musicals) plus other theater presentations. Call HELPLINE for further information - 476-9142.



Club Park Ave

57 S. Joachim St.
Mobile, AL 36602
(205) 433-1236
(205) 433-6185

JIM CRISS
General Manager

...from the pastor

maybe we, too, are like the Falwell followers. It was so secure in my closet. I was so comfortable hiding. I really don't need these new, frightening ideas of openness and liberation, do I? Oh, yes, you do. You need them for your mental health, you need them for your ability to be a whole person, you need them in a world of change, so that you can change with the world and not be stuck, as Saul was, in fear. Saul clung to the old gods, and could not trust Jahweh God -- and he lost. Most of us try the same thing. We stick to our old gods, our closetedness and our lies. God sees through us -- God knows who we are, and God loves us enough to invite us to be KING. Be all you can be, be the royal person God invites you to be. The alternative for far too many of us has been Saul's solution, suicide; the death of who we really are or can be. The gay community is growing up, and learning that in taking risks there is strength and growth. Don't be a Saul -- be a David. Take the risks -- and grow!



COMING OUT

I've often heard Rev. Marge quote her friend from Providence, Ray LaRiviere, who coined a phrase about gay attitudes, "As long as I can boogie, I'm free." A lot of us started out the same way. If it hadn't been for Gay/Lesbian bars, we would have had nothing. Work, a relationship, maybe -- and then party time at the bars. But heavens, don't ask me to meet your there before the sun went down.

We remain in our closets, doing nothing, hoping and sometimes even praying that no one ever discovers who we "really are." From birth, almost, we are conditioned that to be Gay/Lesbian is a fate worse than death. So we hide and we die a thousand deaths each day. And then one day something wakes us up and we come face to face with years of playing "straight" games. The roles we adopted are unbelievable and staggering, not to mention the toll oppression has taken on our lives.

Sane or insane? The medical world finally realized our sexual preferences had nothing to do with our sanity. Yet, many of our people have difficulty making it through life. Many suffer dependency problems -- sexual, drug, alcohol -- many are emotionally crippled by "oppression sickness." They really don't remain sane in world that tries to crush them.

To many of you out there, "coming out" would be insane. For many it would be. The greatest day of my life, however, was when I became insane. Oh, I'd already come out to some very selected "straight" friends, having carefully tested the waters before ever diving. Heck, they already knew who I was anyway.

Things started changing the day I walked into the new MCC. Sweat poured down my back, fear gripped every part of my body. I made myself sit in the second pew from the front, another bold move for me. I looked behind me, and came face to face with an older "straight couple." I muttered some weird excuse (to whom I still don't know) and got up to leave. But I didn't.

I made it through the daylight. I made it through the service in God's house. I was introduced to the older couple and lived. Last week at Bruno's I happened to notice my attire and chuckled to myself. My MCC teshirt looked quite nice! A couple of people gave me knowing smiles, but most of the shoppers paid no attention to me. Most of them, if they knew what an MCC was wouldn't have cared anyway. Most of your professional associates, your families, your straight friends probably know who you are right now. Some may not want the confrontation of being told, but many would welcome your openness and applaud your courage and honesty.

For years, a small minority ran my life. Now I'm in charge. IT FEELS GOOD!!!

University of South Alabama College of Medicine



Department of Internal Medicine

2451 Fillingim Street
Mobile, Alabama 36617

November 21, 1985

Rev. Marjorie F. Ragona
Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church
4500 Bit and Spur Road
Mobile, AL 36608

Dear Rev. Ragona:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter asking Dr. Dacso to speak at a community forum on AIDS. He has been unable to call you during your hours, but he would be more than glad to speak at the forum. He will get in touch with you at a latter date.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Presnell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Theresa Presnell
Secretary, Dr. Cliff Dacso

/tjp

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36609
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
4th Sunday in Lent March 17, 1985

PRELUDE-SINGSPIRATION Floyd Morrell

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: By the waters of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.
P: On the aspens of that land, we hung up our harps.
L: There our captors demanded of us the lyrics of our songs.
P: And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion."
L: How can we sing a song of our God in a strange land?
P: Let me not forget you, O Jerusalem. If I forget, let my right hand be forgotten.
L: If I do not sing your praise, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.
P: If I forget you, and do not place Jerusalem ahead of my joy, remember me not, O God.

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling L.315

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC Floyd Morrell

Reading from the Scripture: II Chronicles 36:14-23
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3: 14-21

Gloria: Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SERMON: Called Back from Exile Rev. Ragona

HYMN: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go L.324

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN: In the Cross of Christ I Glory L.104

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are sorry for what we have become: Sometimes there is meanness in us like little knives cutting others; sometimes there is envy, self-pity, and gossip. We think of sin as huge -- and yet sometimes it is its very smallness that is most destructive. For these small daily sins, and for the large sins by which we injure the peace of the world and turn ourselves and others away from thee, we pray forgiveness. Without you, O God, we are broken pieces. In your mercy mend us and give us over to the uses of love; through Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen."

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

- L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

RESPONSE AFTER COMMUNION

Now our God is with us, let us make thanksgiving
For the joy within us living.
In this holy temple, at this holy table,
Hope and life God will enable.
Now we leave and believe That God will restore us
For the work before us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: O Zion, Hasten L.397
V.1-3

BENEDICTION

- L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor 476-9142

EASTER SUNDAY April 7, 1985

SINGSPIRATION Ms. Pat Brown

CALL TO WORSHIP: L. My strength and my courage is God, who has been my savior.

P: I shall not die, but live and declare the works of God.

L: Tho' God has indeed chastised me;

P. Yet have I not been delivered to death.

L: Open to me the gates of justice; and I will enter them and give thanks to God.

P: The gate is God's; the just shall enter it.

L: I will give thanks to you, O god, for you have answered me and been my savior.

P: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

L: By God this has been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

P: This is the day which God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

L151

Welcome/Announcements/Greeting of Visitors

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 25:6-9

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16: 1-8

SERMON: Arising from the Grave

Rev. Ragona

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O GOD.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be.

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together

L212

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires and devices of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O God, have mercy on us. Spare us who confess our sins. Restore

those who are penitent, according to the promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, and grant, O most merciful God, his His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus, the Christ, who taught us to pray saying, " Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is Risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: O Day of Resurrection

M159

BENEDICTION: L. God go with you.

P. And also with you.

* * * * *
FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW: The prayers of confession are from a variety of sources. Today's is from the United Church of Christ.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS: Every Sunday at 5:30 at the church. Four are required for membership. We will be receiving new members on April 21. Our congregational meeting is May 5th at 5:30.

Would you stay in your place for a quick meeting immediately after the service. District Conference is April 26, 27 and 28 in Raleigh, N.C. We need a consensus view on 2-3 questions before that conference.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN GOING TO THE MOVIES SATURDAY EVENING?
Let's find out and get together to go.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit & Spur Rd. Mobile, AL. 36609
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
2nd. Sunday of Easter April 14, 1985

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Praise God from the heavens, praise God in the heights;
P: Praise God, all you angels and hosts.
L: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars.
P: Praise God, you highest heavens and waters above the heavens.
L: Let all praise the name of God, for God commanded and they were created;
P: God established them forever and ever; God gave them a duty which shall not pass away.

OPENING HYMN: Holy, holy, holy! M1

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

SERMON: Rev. Ragona

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: HEAR OUR PRAYERS, O GOD.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Break Thou The Bread Of Life M387

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, who by your love has made us, and through your love has kept us, and in your love would make us perfect: We confess that we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ has loved us. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted your Spirit, we have neglected your inspiration. Forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are; in your Spirit, direct what we shall become; that you may come in full glory in us and in all people.

In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL R49
CLOSING HYMN: Pass It On! -song sheet-

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

* * * * *

EVENTS: MCC at Mobile FLEA MARKET -- To be held at Shirley's home, Sat. 4/20, 8AM-2PM. See Shirley for directions. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED!!!!

S.A.D. SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE will be held in Raleigh, N.C., 4/26,27, &28. Proceeds from the 4/20 flea market to be used toward District Conf. expenses.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED SUN., APRIL 21.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: 5:30PM at the church every Sun..

GSS PROPOSAL: We have "a copy" of the new GSS Proposal, to be reviewed at the Spring D.C. and presented at Gen'l. Conf. in Sacramento. See Marge if you would like to look at it.

MCC AT MOBILE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, May 5, following worship service.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, AL. 36609
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
3rd. Sunday in Easter April 21, 1985

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who
relieve me when I am in distress; Have pity on
me, and hear my prayer!

P: Many say, "Oh, that we might see better times!"
God, let the light of your countenance shine
upon us!

L: You put gladness into my heart, more than when
grain and wine abound.

P: As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,
for you alone, O God, bring security to my
dwelling.

OPENING HYMN: I Love To Tell The Story M249

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UFMCC RITE OF MEMBERSHIP

HYMN: Blessed Be The Tie That Binds M416 Vs.1

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:35-48

GLORIA: Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SERMON: Rev. Ragona

HYMN: My Faith Looks Up To Thee M213

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Just As I Am

M198

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, who by your love has
made us, and through your love has kept us, and in
your love would make us perfect: We confess that
we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul
and mind and strength, and that we have not loved
one another as Christ has loved us. We have not
lived by faith. We have resisted your Spirit, we
have neglected your inspiration. Forgive what we
have been, help us to amend what we are; in your
Spirit, direct what we shall become; that you may
come in full glory in us and in all people. In the
name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our
God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For
yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and
forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: List up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ
has risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Near The Cross

M248

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

* * * * *

S.A.D. SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE, Raleigh, N.C.,
4/26,27 &28. Rev. Ragona will be away next Sunday.
MCC AT MOBILE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Sun.,5/5,
following worship service.
NEW MEMBERS CLASS: 5:30PM every Sunday.

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, AL. 36609
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
3rd. Sunday in Easter April 21, 1985

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who
relieve me when I am in distress; Have pity on
me, and hear my prayer!
P: Many say, "Oh, that we might see better times!"
God, let the light of your countenance shine
upon us!
L: You put gladness into my heart, more than when
grain and wine abound.
P: As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,
for you alone, O God, bring security to my
dwelling.

OPENING HYMN: I Love To Tell The Story M249

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UFMCC RITE OF MEMBERSHIP

HYMN: Blessed Be The Tie That Binds M416 Vs.1

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:35-48

GLORIA: Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SERMON: Rev. Ragona

HYMN: My Faith Looks Up To Thee M213

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, who by your love has
made us, and through your love has kept us, and in
your love would make us perfect: We confess that
we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul
and mind and strength, and that we have not loved
one another as Christ has loved us. We have not
lived by faith. We have resisted your Spirit, we
have neglected your inspiration. Forgive what we
have been, help us to amend what we are; in your
Spirit, direct what we shall become; that you may
come in full glory in us and in all people. In the
name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our
God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For
yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and
forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: List up your hearts.
P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ
has risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Near The Cross M248

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

* * * * *
S.A.D. SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE, Raleigh, N.C.,
4/26,27 &28. Rev. Ragona will be away next Sunday.
MCC AT MOBILE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Sun.,5/5,
following worship service.
NEW MEMBERS CLASS: 5:30PM every Sunday.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit & Spur Road Mobile, AL. 36609
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 28, 1985

SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures you, God, give me repose;
P: Beside restful waters you lead me; you refresh my soul.
L: You guide me in right paths for your name's sake.
P: Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage.
L: You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
P: Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of my God for years to come.

OPENING HYMN: Just A Closer Walk With Thee R25

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION: Sermon On The Mount Ms. Vivian Gillan
(Matt. 5:1-12)

HYMN: I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say R82

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Acts 4:8-12 1 John 3:18-24
John 10:11-18

SERMON Rev. Dani D'Aunay
Pastor, St. Peter's Lutheran Church

HYMN: It Is Well With My Soul R49

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear our prayers, O God; Hear our prayers, O God.
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is thine alons, A Trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Just As I Am M198

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, who by your love has made us, and through your love has kept us, and in your love would make us perfect: We confess that we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ has loved us. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted your Spirit, we have neglected your inspiration. Forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, in your Spirit, direct what we shall become; that you may come in full glory in us and in all people.

In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

L: God be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks.
P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: My Jesus, I Love Thee R50

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

-Please be in prayer for a successful and enlightening conference in Raleigh, N.C. this weekend. Among the agenda items is the approval of MCC At Mobile as a UFMCC Study Group! Three people from MCC Mobile will be in attendance: Rev. Marge Pat Brown and Shirley Lambert.

-Next Sunday, May 5, Congregational Meeting immediately following service.

-Membership Class next Sunday, 5:30 PM, here at the church.

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 26608
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 5th Sunday in Easter May 5, 1985
 SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L. You who are in awe of God, praise God.
 P: For God has not spurned the wretched in their misery, nor
 turned away in disdain.

L: God has heard when the poor have cried out in their
 wretchedness.

P: God, by your gift I will utter praise in the vast assembly;
 I will fulfill my vows before those who fear God.

L: The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek God will
 praise saying, "May your hearts be forever merry."

P: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to God.
 All peoples will bow down before God.

L: For dominion is God's and God rules the nations.

P: All the earth shall bow before our God.

OPENING HYMN: From All That Dwell M17

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING OF VISITORS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 8: 26-40
 I John 4: 7-12
 John 15: 1-8

SERMON: Keeping the Fruit Together Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Church's One Foundation M381

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own
 Whate'er the gift may be
 All that we have is thine alone,
 A trust, O God, from thee.

COMMUNION HYMN: Cleanse Me Printed

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come,
 your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
 day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive
 those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
 deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and
 the glory, now and forever, Amen.

Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth
 are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
 the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
 highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died, Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Pass It On Printed

BENEDICTION

L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

* * * * *

We are happy to be home from Conference and very happy to
 have the privilege of telling you that we did pass the Board
 of Home Missions and are now an official Study Group of the
 Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church. Next
 stop -- Mission!

We ask your prayers for all who are suffering from AIDS. Just
 yesterday we heard of another dear friend who is gone due to
 this disease. We ask you to pray for the mother of Jesus
 Maisonet, a founding member and delegate from MCC Hispana, the
 first Spanish language MCC.

There will be a Congregational meeting immediately following
 tonight's service. We will try to keep it short. Everyone
 will have a voice, but only those who have officially joined
 the church will be able to vote. Please stay, your input is
 needed, and we need your votes for our Advisory Board.

RAP SERIES: We will be beginning a Rap Series in June. It
 will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. A flyer is enclosed
 which tells what topics will be discussed when. Come and
 bring friends. Take some flyers home with you and give them
 to people in the bars and elsewhere.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, Ala. 36608
(205) 476-9142

7th Sunday in Easter

May 19, 1985

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: (From Psalm 1)

- L: Happy are you when you do not follow the counsels of the wicked, no walk in the way of sinners.
- P: Happy are you, when you do not sit in the company of the insolent, but delight in the law of God and meditate on it day and night.
- L: You are like a tree planted near running water, that yields fruit in good season and whose leaves do not fade.
- P: Whatever you do will prosper; Not so the wicked, who are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
- L: Therefore the wicked shall not stand in judgment nor shall sinners sit in the assembly of the just.
- P: For God watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes.

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

M372

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING OF VISITORS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE - Acts 1:15-26

I John 5: 9-13

John 17: 11b-19

SERMON: PREPARING FOR THE SPIRIT'S COMING

REV. RAGONA

HYMN: I Would Be True

R72

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We Give Thee But Thine Own

COMMUNION HYMN: Are Ye Able?

M268

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, maker of all things and judge of us all. We acknowledge and are sorry for our many sins, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed against you. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these misdeeds and the memory of them weighs heavily upon us. Have mercy upon us, forgive all that is past, and grant that we may hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life. Through Jesus, who taught

us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grave. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OR OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Living for Jesus

R 71

BENEDICTION

* * * * *

An important congregational letter is enclosed in your bulletin. Please read it and be prepared to stay for a very short meeting following the service. We will remain in our seats and make a decision.

RAP GROUP: The first session of the Rap begins this Wednesday. Everyone is welcome. We have put flyers out in the community and hope that some people will be moved to come and talk with us. There will be refreshments.

Next Sunday we are invited to share with the Lutherans at their congregational picnic. Please bring a meat to cook, if you are planning to attend.

If the congregational decision is for the District Coordinator to come next weekend, we will contact everyone by telephone to let them know when and where we will be meeting.

The pastor's phone will be out of service until Thursday. Unfortunately, 8 weeks of being out of work has meant many bills to catch up with, and the phone was one which could temporarily be disrupted with least effect. It will be back this week.

Next Sunday is Pentecost. May the Holy Spirit descend on us!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY October 5, 1985
SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: We give thanks to you, Eternal God, for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever.

P: We have called upon you when we were in distress; and you answered and set us free.

L: With you on our side, O God, what have we to fear? What can mere mortals do against us?

P: God is with me to help me, and I can look at my foes without being afraid.

L: We know that it is better to trust you, O God, than to put our confidence in human beings.

P: It is better to take refuge in you, O God, than to depend on earthly rulers.

L: O Living God, you are our strength and our song; and you have become our salvation.

P: We praise you and thank you this day.

OPENING HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth M18

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC: I'm Not Afraid Any More Doug Park

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 37:1-14
GALATIANS 5:1, 2, 13, 15
MATTHEW 9:14-17

SERMON: FREE TO BE

Rev. Elder Troy Perry

HYMN: Once to every Soul and Nation

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Reponse: We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be,
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.

COMMUNION HYMN: Take My Life and Let It Be M46

Today is Fellowship Sunday, the anniversary of MCC's founding Seventeen years ago. We rejoice in our recovery of our faith, and in your presence here today. WE ARE THE CHURCH ALIVE!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God behold us as we are: Often soiled, broken and unhappy -- but just as often pure, whole and joyful. We have been captive, but freed by your love. We have been afraid but are made courageous by your strength. We have done evil, and worse, permitted evil to be done. We have let innocence be attack, and we, too, have fed the dogs of hate. We have watched the world fall, and sat quietly by. But each new day, we grow, we learn, and we begin to change. Hear our sorrow for what we have been, amend what we are, and make us truly what you would have us be. You alone know the secrets of our heart, and you alone can redeem us. Let us praise you forever and ever, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/ THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you,
And also with you.

RAP: Wednesday, topic: "Peer Pressure -- Handling your friends."

THURSDAY; HELPLINE TRAINING. Dr. Fred Michaels, speaking and training about substance abuse and alcoholism. This is the single most important cause of personal misery in our community. Please be here for this training session.

SUNDAY: Shrimp boil on Sunday for MCC at David's. \$3.00 at the door, and MCC gets the door. SATURDAY: We need your help to prepare for the shrimp boil.

In addition to MCC's 17th anniversary, it is our 6 month anniversary. MCC at Mobile was founded exactly six months ago this Sunday. We glory in our progress, we ask God's blessing to overcome our defeats, and we look forward to our future.

Over these six months there have been many, many people who have helped week by week, month by month. First, there is Dean, who always sees to our coffee hour. John Pettibone heads our Outreach Committee, and has gifted us with posters, business cards, and many hours of service and good advice. Tom Rose is our unflagging Treasurer, who gives many hours of service keeping us solvent and our bills paid up to date. Vivian is our Clerk, and keeps our records and attendance. Ron and Joe have been working with Shirley on the newsletter, and selling ads, getting news, and doing much of the leg work to get the newsletter on a solid financial footing. How then, to say thanks to them and to Ken for his constant thoughtfulness, his roses, and his faithfulness?

Additionally, we have so many good cooks to thank! There's Dean, John Pettibone, Mary Del, Joe Tate, the pastor, all of whom make our receptions, suppers, and cookouts so special.

Special thanks goes to John Hobbs for music beyond what we ever could have imagined.

We thank the gay business leaders, the gay community, and the gay activists among us for publicity, for favors, for support.

We thank all of you who worship every Sunday -- and especially Viv, Ron, Larry, David, Joe and Ken for helping with the worship service by ushering, greeting, acolyting, and serving communion.

We thank the Lutheran Church people at St. Peter's who have given us the freedom to be ourselves, and enabled this church to happen.

We thank Mrs. Lambert for her love, an occasional cake, and for giving the world Shirley, who keeps the pastor sane. And for Natalie, who hasn't started yet, but who'll be spelling John Hobbs at the organ. These are God's great straighties!

To all of you - for your contributions, your love, and your support. Thank you for your part in MCC at Mobile's first six months, and the Fellowship's 17th year. Bless you all.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH'S
17th Anniversary

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
2nd Sunday in Advent December 8, 1985

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: When God brought the captives back to Zion, we were like people dreaming.
P: Our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with rejoicing.
L: We said among the nations, "God has done great things for us." God has indeed done great things for us and we are very glad.
P: Restore our fortunes, O God, like the torrents of the desert.
L: Let those who went forth in weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

OPENING HYMN: Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 9:1-6

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

SERMON: Make the Rough Way Smooth Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Christ for the World We Sing M481

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayers, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be, See Shirley for details.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus M84

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Blessed Jesus, in this season of thy coming, our darkness deepens expecting thy Light, our knowledge falters expecting your truth, our evil trembles expecting your Mercy. We have sinned against innocence, forgotten human sorrow, denied pity, excused ourselves from love, and shunned holiness. Assail us by the bright blows of thy grace and make us teachable, that we may learn again the peace that comes to those of goodwill; through Jesus,

the Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name; your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear M92

BENEDICTION L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace: The Peace of God go with you. And also with you.

REST PERIOD: The pastor is taking a well-earned rest Monday and Tuesday, please respect this needed time off. (Emergencies will, of course, be handled.)

WEDNESDAY; Rap. 2nd in the Advent Series; topic "The figures around the Crif and their message to us."

SATURDAY: We need people to help clean up St. Peter's. Everyone is welcome. 10 a.m. until it's clean.

SATURDAY: We have been invited to Paul's for a tree-trimming.

NEXT SUNDAY: Mrs. Lambert's birthday. Please join us for cake and hugs, immediately following worship.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS. REMEMBER WE ARE CAROLING DOWNTOWN on 12/23.

REMEMBER THE CHRISTMAS EVE (11:00 p.m.) SERVICE°
BRING A FRIEND, A LOVER, OR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER BEEN TO CHURCH° THIS WILL BE A WONDERFUL TIME TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO MCC°

Lectionary for first Sunday in Advent: Psalm 122; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans
13:8-14; Matthew 24:36-44

11834 LHM W. U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE



*For you do not know
on what day your Lord is coming.*
Matthew 24:42

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
3rd Sunday in Advent December 15, 1985

SINGSPARATION

Joe Tate

CALL TO WORSHIP - L: God, you have indeed been my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.

P: My strength and my courage is my God, who has been my savior.

L: With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

P: I will say on that day, Give thanks to God, acclaim God's name. Make known God's deeds among the nations.

L: Proclaim how exalted is God's name; sing praise to God for many glorious achievements; let this be known throughout all the earth

P: Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

OPENING HYMN: How Great Thou Art

L

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14- 20

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES (Declaration)

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 4: 4-9

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3: 15-18

SER MON: The One Who Is To Come

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE: We Give Thee But Thine Own

COMMUNION HYMN: Angels From the Realms of Glory Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, when you love us so much, why do we dread your coming? When we would see you, why do we cover our eyes in fear? When the music sounds from the far heaven, we tremble, and when it sounds like bells and truth close by us, our hearts cry out a gladness long forgotten yet always remembered. It is our sin that dreads and hides. Pride cannot bear you, falsehood cannot bear you. Yet faith in us adores you, O word shaped in love, spoken in fire, captured in flesh, and given for our sins. We thank,

we praise, we glorify, we adore you, O God, creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power and the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus is coming again

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Happy birthday to Mrs. Lambert on 12/16 and to Mary Del on 12/17.
Special thanks to Jon Martin and Ron Hunt for their help in cleaning St. Peter's.

Wednesday, Rap "Those Who Were Not at the Crib" Come and prepare for Christmas with this special Advent rap.

THURSDAY: Final class of the term at Springhill. Please give the pastor space to finish her paper this week.

MONDAY: Tree trimming at the pastors, followed by caroling downtown; Come and sing with us.

TUESDAY, Christmas eve services: St. Peter's at 8 - We have been invited to share with them. Our Christmas eve service is at 11:00 p.m. Come and bring your lover or a friend -- especially bring someone who only goes to church once a year.

WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY: Everyone is welcome to drop by the pastor's and Shirleys for our open house all day.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH - MONTGOMERY

Order of Worship

GATHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Piano Prelude

Singspiration

Announcements

Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Organ Prelude

*Hymn

First Lesson

*Gloria Patri: Glory be to our God and to the
Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is
now and ever shall be. World
without end. Amen. Amen.

*Gospel

*Offertory Hymn

Organ Offertory

*Doxology

Sermon

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Communion Hymn

Consecration

Sursum Corda: C: Lift up your hearts.
R: We lift them up unto the lord.
C: Let us give thanks unto the
Lord our God.
R: It is right to give thanks and
praise.

Sanctus Et Benedictus:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.

The Sacrament Of The Lord's Supper

(After all have communed who wish to do so,
those remaining seated in the congregation are
invited to join with those at the altar.)

Post Communion Hymn

DISMISSAL TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

The Montgomery Mangle

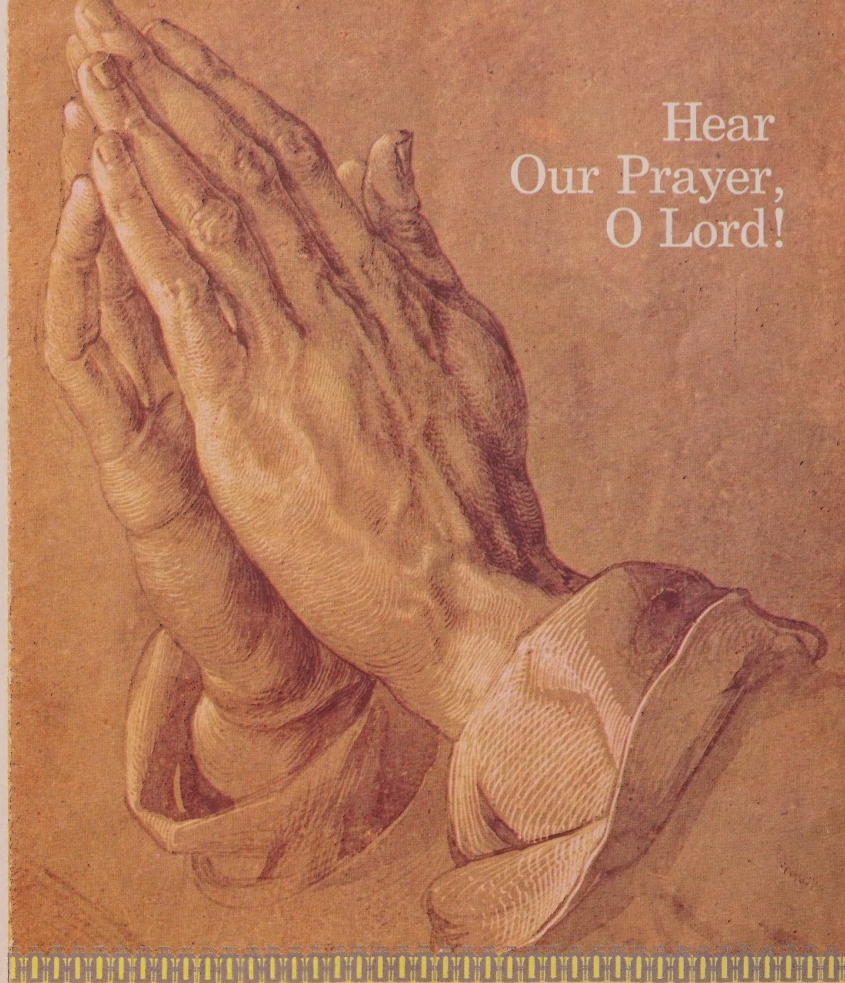
The Peace

Organ Postlude

* - Please stand where indicated by an asterisk.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep
Silence
Picardy
Habakkuk 2:20 French Carol

Hear
Our Prayer,
O Lord!





GUESS WHO'S COMING TO MOBILE??

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

...A church for all people with a special ministry of and to the Gay and Lesbian community.

INTRODUCTORY COMMUNITY MEETING

WHERE: 4500 Bit and Spur Road

WHEN: Sunday, March 3rd, 6:00 p.m.

Other churches want you to change before they'll accept you. MCC says you are God's child exactly as you are, and God loves you NOW.

If you have heard about MCC, or know others who have belonged to or attended an MCC you know who we are -- if you haven't come and find out that we are the church in and of the Gay community -- and we are beginning a church here in Mobile that you and your friends will want to attend. No head trips, no cures, no changes in your life-style -- just the honest message that God loves you and all people, and that love operates today.

FUN

REFRESHMENTS

MUSIC

FOR INFORMATION CALL 476-9142

FIRST ANNIVERSARY AWARDS BANQUET

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Rev. Marge Ragona

INVOCATION

Mr. Ken Jones

DINNER

CHURCH HISTORY

Shirley Lambert

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Michael Fitzgerald
Ronald Hunt
Tom Rose
Rev. Ragona

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Ragona

ADDRESS

"What's for Sure?"

Rev. Elder John Hose

BENEDICTION

Rev. Elder Hose

Metropolitan Community Church at Mobile is celebrating the anniversary of the founding of this church one year ago. Tonight we honor those who, in this first year, have been important in our growth, our sense of community, and our continuing ability to worship God together. To all of you we say thank you and bless you for your faithfulness and love.

REV. ELDER EMERITUS JOHN HOSE

John Hose has been one of the ministers who have been important in the shaping of MCC's theology and practice. He was one of the original group who met in Troy Perry's living room when the church came into being. It was Rev. Elder Hose who drafted the first Statement of Faith of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

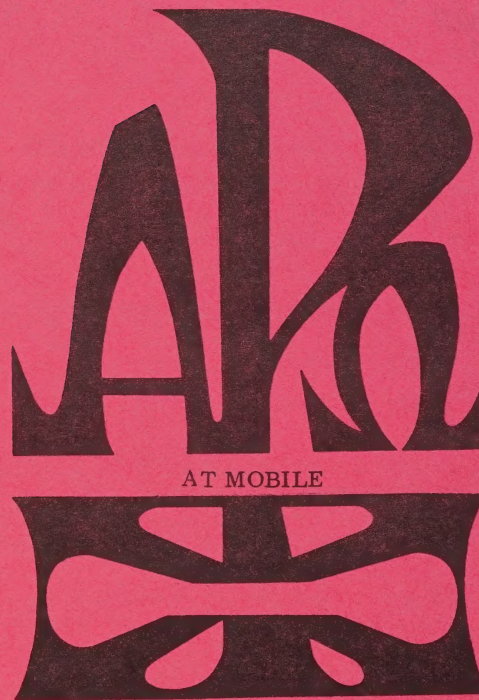
Born in Ohio, John Hose was a pastor in the Evangelical and Reformed Churches prior to his becoming a member of MCC, ministering in that denomination for many years until he felt the need to leave it.

Since coming to MCC, John Hose has pastored at Los Angeles, San Diego, Tampa, Atlanta and was one of the original Board of Elders of the U. F. M. C. C. He currently serves on the Board of Regents of Samaritan Institute for Theology, UFMCC's training wing for ministers and laity.

Rev. Elder Hose currently lives in Atlanta and is active in the MCC of the Blessed Redeemer there.

It is our privilege and pleasure to have Rev. Elder Hose with us tonight and he will also be bringing the message tomorrow at our worship service.

**Metropolitan
Community
Church**



AT MOBILE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
2nd Sunday after Christmas January 5, 1986

SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Glorify your God, O Jerusalem, praise
your God, O Zion.

P: For God has strengthened the bars of your gates, and protected
the people within them.

L: God has granted peace to your borders and filled you with the
best of wheat.

P: God scatters hail like crumbs and freezes the waters; God
spreads snow like wool, and strews frost like ashes.

L: God then sends the word and melts them, lets the breezes
blow and the waters run.

P: God has commanded the earth, swiftly runs God's word.

L: God has proclaimed the word to the people of Jacob, given
statutes and ordinances to Israel

P: God has done this for us but has not made known these ordi-
nances to any other nation. Blessed be our God.

OPENING HYMN: PRAISE MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN
Printed

WELCOME, GREETING OF VISITORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:36-40

SERMON: What are you doing standing in the dark? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Arise, Your Light Has Come Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN Breathe on Me, Breath of God M180

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O timeless God, God of our days and
years, as the new year begins, we reflect on the past and look forward
to the future. Put from us, in the mercy of your means, the wasted
hours, the dry seasons, the desolate evenings, the shabby dawns.
Keep us from walking in the mazes of our own vanity, from listening to
the voices of the foolish, and from looking solely into our own reflec-
tions. O holy, high, and mighty God, break us loose from our pasts,
show us the everlasting in the perishable, hope in defeat, purpose in
chaos. Help us in this new year, to raise each morning, glad that we
are part of your eternity, capture us in grace and hold us in mercy,
lest one more year go by empty, drab and lost. Save and keep us
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our
God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be
done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power,
the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Alleluia

CLOSING HYMN: We Three Kings of Orient Are M102

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

We want to thank everyone who participated as a host/hostess for the
12 Nights of Christmas. Each party was wonderful in its own way, and
the variety was superb. Thank you all. We hope your Christmas
season was the happiest ever.

WEDNESDAY: New Rap Series begins with "Coming Out: Telling Our
Stories." Many did not begin with the first series, and here's another
opportunity.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
First Sunday in Lent January 16, 1986

SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

- P: Say to God, " My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust. "
L: For God will rescue you from the snare of the fowler, from the destroying pestilence.
P: With God's pinions you will be covered, and under God's wings you shall take refuge; God's faithfulness is a buckler and shield.
L: You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day.
P: You shall not fear the pestilence that roams in darkness, nor the devastating plague at noon.
L: Though thousands shall fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, it shall not come near you.
P: Because you have God for your refuge; you have made the Most High your stronghold, no evil shall befall you.
L: For to God's angels has a command been given about you, that they guard you in all your ways.
P: Upon their hands shall they bear you up, lest you dash your foot upon a stool.

OPENING HYMN: Our God is Like an Eagle. Printed

WELCOME, GREETING OF VISITORS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 26: 5-11
Romans 10:8 13
Luke 5: 27-32

SERMON: A Confession of Faith Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear our Prayer, O God; Hear our prayer, O God.
Incline your ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: If I Wounded Any Soul Today Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, with what words can we come who in our thoughts and acts often forget about you? Can you deal with our vanity? Can you be patient when we are lukewarm about holy things? Can you forgive us when we are too timid to dream dreams and see visions? Can you abide with us when we do not believe you can truly love us as we are? Warm us, set us ablaze with your love that we do not become a vain and whimpering noise, a dull people, a stultified generation. Teach us to wonder, for you are mystery; glory and honor are yours and we are thine; in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/The BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Alleluia

CLOSING HYMN: WHOSOEVER SURELY MEANETH ME Printed

THE BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

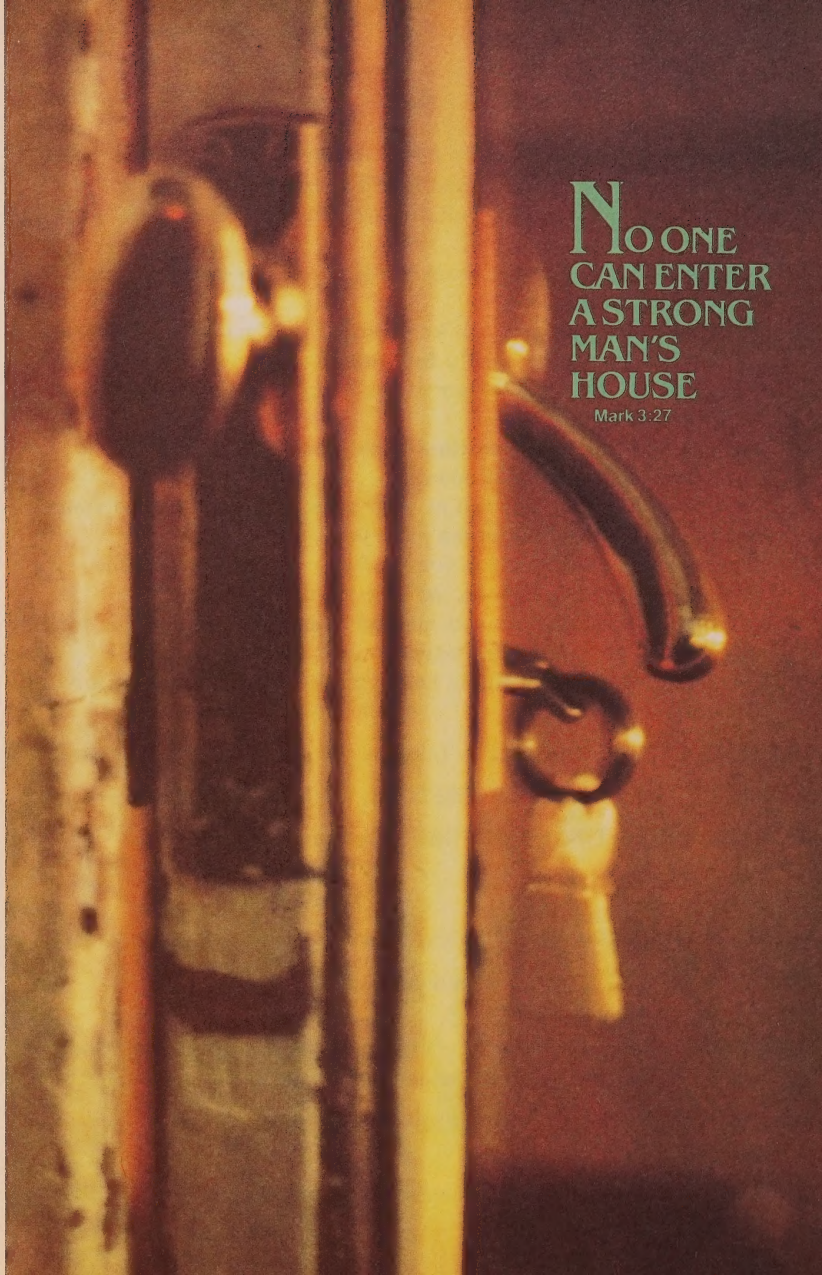
P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

WEDNESDAY, RAP: Topic "Moving Beyond our Homophobia". If you missed last week's rap, you missed a very good one. Don't let the subject of AIDS keep you from some raps that are exceptionally well prepared - helping us deal with AIDS, also helps us deal with other fears, as well.

CLEAN UP ST PETERS -1 p.m. We need volunteers to help clean the church. Remember, we are having an anniversary, and out of town visitors.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY, March 1 and 2. Tickets for banquet on sale tonight. \$10.00.



NO ONE
CAN ENTER
A STRONG
MAN'S
HOUSE

Mark 3:27

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 1986

SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: As a hart longs for flowing streams, so
longs my soul for thee, O God.

P: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come
and behold the face of God?

L: By day, God commands steadfast love, and at night God's song
is within me, a prayer to the God of my life.

P: I say to God, my rock: "Why hast thou forsaken me? Why do
I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted
within me?

P: Hope thou in God; for I shall again praise you, my help and
my God.

OPENING HYMN: Day is Dying in the West

M44

WELCOME/ GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES : I Samuel 1: 19-28 398
I Corinthians 4:1-6 566
Luke 4:1-13

SERMON: We Can Resist Everything but Temptation Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Pass Me Not

M231

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross M 248

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, we praise thee for this
day and for its thousand new beginnings. On your compassion rests
the hope of all people everywhere. Stop us when evil is on our
tongues or when we play at faith. Do not let us serve you casually,
but with our whole hearts. Keep us from our hiding places, where
we think we can avoid you. Shock us out of our little ordered dignity,
and make us aware of our deepest needs. Receive us in your mercy
until we are totally yours, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught
us to pray, saying... "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your

dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver
us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign, and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREADING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Blessed Assurance

M238

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

• • • • •
If any of you came by 2204 Old Government looking for us, you
probably didn't find us. We have moved to 57 North Reed Street,
just below Houston and Dauphin Streets. The rap this Wednesday
will be at Reed Street.

Ground Hog Christmas Party at 6964 Airport Bl vd. #55, Saturday
February 1st, 7:30 p. m. Bring a "Ground Hog" gift of less than
99¢, to be exchanged with your favorite "hog."

WEDNESDAY RAP, topic will be "Healthy Endings", a rap on how
to close chapters in good ways.

MONDAY: Remember bingo for AIDS at the Esquire every Monday.

If you've always wanted to go to District Conference, this is the one
to attend! Rev. Elder Troy Perry, the founder of MCC will be
the featured speaker at Conference, as well as allowing time for
questions about the Fellowship, its mission, and its direction.
If you would like to go, talk to the pastor for details.

"End of April" Nashville District
Conference

Food Temptations

Sex

Live Though kids

Ministers have high hopes

Prevent the Gospel - Paul

Jesus

French Revolution

Bread Riots

Temps Jesus on food

Revolutions → Break down
When breaks
down

Assyria

Egypt

(Babalonias

Kings Hwy

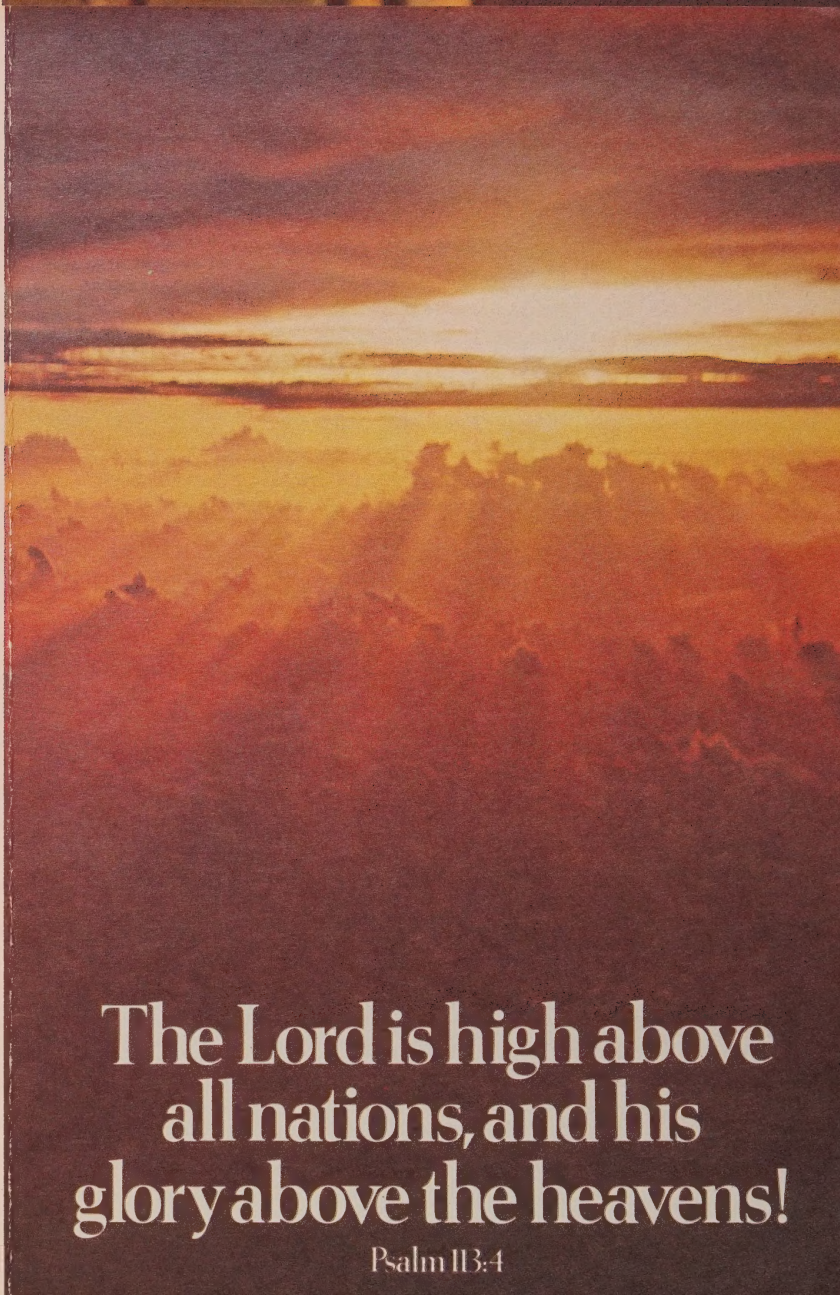
Power



Wishop him
Power of own life

Power

Evil



The Lord is high above
all nations, and his
glory above the heavens!

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
4th Sunday After Epiphany February 2, 1986
SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: In you, O God, I take refuge;
Let me never be put to shame.
P: In your justice rescue me and deliver me; incline your
ear to me and save me.
L: Be the rock of my refuge, a stronghold to give me safety,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
P: O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked, from
the grasp of the criminal and the violent, for you are
my hope, O God.
L: I have depended on you from my birth; from my mother's
womb you have been my strength; constant has been my
hope in you.
P: I am a sign to many, but you are my strong refuge; my
mouth shall be filled with your glory day by day.

OPENING HYMN: For The Beauty of the Earth M18

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8: 1-12
I Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 4: 14-21

SERMON: Doing What Comes Naturally Rev. Ragona

HYMN: O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee M259

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN Amazing Grace M209

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, help us to realize
that our lives do not have to be a burden, nor do we have
to dwell in endless winter, cold and alone. You are the
warmth and the sunlight and draw us unto you. Keep us
from turning away from you and do not let us falter and
fall in broken promises and empty dreams. Let our lives
be full of you. We pray your mercy, your strength, and
your forgiveness to cleanse us, to warm our souls, and to
set us free. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,

"Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us
from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Allelulia

CLOSING HYMN: Make Me A Blessing Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

* * * * *

MONDAY: Remember that Grace is binging for the Mobile AIDS
Fund. Please remember to stay and play awhile. All money
goes to a good cause.

WEDNESDAY: Rap: Title (one more time) "Happy Endings." How
to end a relationship well.

FRIDAY: THE OSIRIS BALL!!

SATURDAY: John P. has invited everyone to come see Maxwell
Anderson's "Winterset", a very beautiful film which starred the
then 17 year old Burgess Meredith. You will enjoy it.

REMEMBER == Our first anniversary is coming. We will be having
dinner at the Conti Cafe, \$10.00 a ticket, enabling us to bring
in a speaker for this special occasion. MENU: Roast beef,
baked potatoes, salad and dessert.
Also put on your calendar: Troy Perry will be at District
Conference.

4500 Bit and Spur Road MOBILE, ALABAMA 36608
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 5th Sunday after Epiphany February 9, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

P: You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

L: Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?

P: Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare.

L: Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the covenant of blessing I made with David.

P: Seek God while God may be found; call upon God while you may yet hear.

L: Let scoundrels forsake their ways and the wicked their thoughts. Turn to God for mercy, to our God who forgives generously.

P: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways, says your God.

L: As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways

P: And my thoughts above your thoughts.

OPENING HYMN: COME THOU FOUNT M23

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92
 I Corinthians 12:31-13: 13
 Luke 7: 27-38

HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING M372

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God.
 Incline thine ear to us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE M387

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we know that beyond language is thy Word, beyond sin there is thy holiness, beyond fear there is thy love. You are the Breath that breathes in us; you are the hand that holds us; you are the heart that loves us. Pardon and revive

us. Keep us from becoming too comfortable; warm us to thy love, teach us to affirm you daily, make our purposes your purpose, our work your work. Walk with us so that we truly move from nowhere to somewhere with you. Teach us to live with grace, defend us from our successes and our ease. Root us in dense and holy depths that we may have life more abundantly. In the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, "Our creator in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil; for thine is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
 P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
 And also with you.

• • • • •

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Happy Birthday, John Pettibone (2/6).

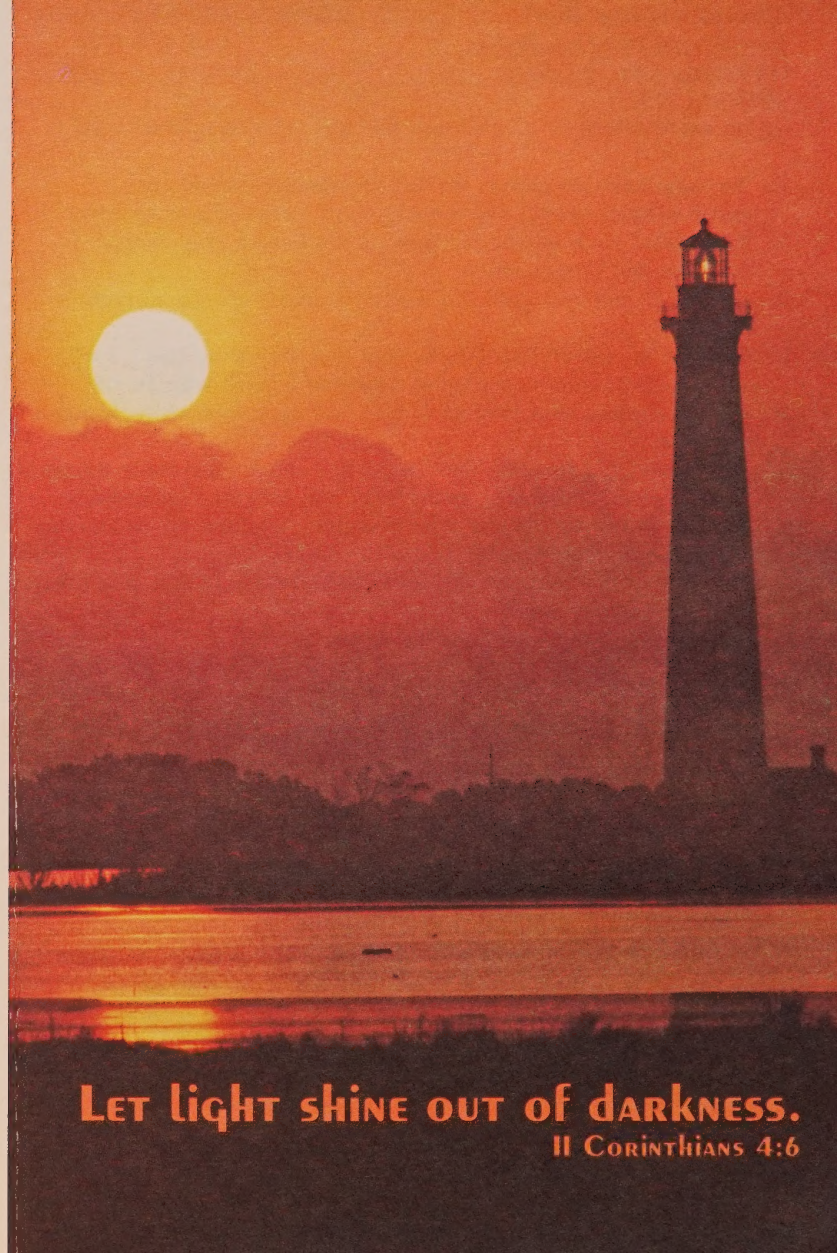
WEDNESDAY: Rap series begins 6 raps on AIDS, a lenten study provided by the UFMCC. These raps will allow us to explore our feelings about AIDS; for both men and women have feelings about this illness.

FRIDAY: A Valentine's Party at the Parsonage. Come and bring your significant other.

Remember our anniversary, remember the Conference, and remember that Troy Perry is the featured speaker.

Lectionary for last Sunday after Epiphany:
Psalm 99:1-5; Deuteronomy 34:1-12; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Luke 9:28-36

2832 LITURGY IN U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE



LET LIGHT SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS.
II CORINTHIANS 4:6

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476 - 9142

Second Sunday in Lent

February 23, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: As the deer longs for running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

P: Athirst is my soul for God, for the living God. When shall I
go and behold the face of God?

L: My tears have been my food day after day as they say to me,
"Where is your God?"

P: Those times I recall, now that I pour out my soul within me,
When I went with the throng and led them in procession to
the house of God.

L: As we went with loud cries of thanksgiving with the multitude
keeping festival.

P: Why are you downcast, O my soul, and why do you sigh within
me?

L: Hope in God! For I shall again go thanking God.

P: I shall hope in the presence of my savior and my God.

OPENING HYMN: All Creatures of Our God and Light Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 13:1-11

Phillipians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13: 31-35

SERMON: THE PHARISEES: Not a woman, a gentile or a dog.

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

R40

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together

L 212

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we confess that we do not want
to confess the fault in us. Sometimes we would rather abandon
you than face you. We would like you to be bland and not challenge
us. Our pride, our wars, and our sins separate us from you and
from each other and we feel each separation as a little death. We
live because you live in us. Make for us your way among the

various ways; and teach us that whether we take the way of ease,
sorrow, burden, laughter, foolishness or wisdom, you are the
way with us. Make blessed all the days of our lives, open to us
hope, good labor, new joys because we are alive in you. In the
name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven,
holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on
earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and for-
give us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the
power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and
earth is full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN: LORD, DISMISSES US WITH THY BLESSING M26

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

• • • • •

Thanks to all who helped to clean St. Peter's. Bless you all.

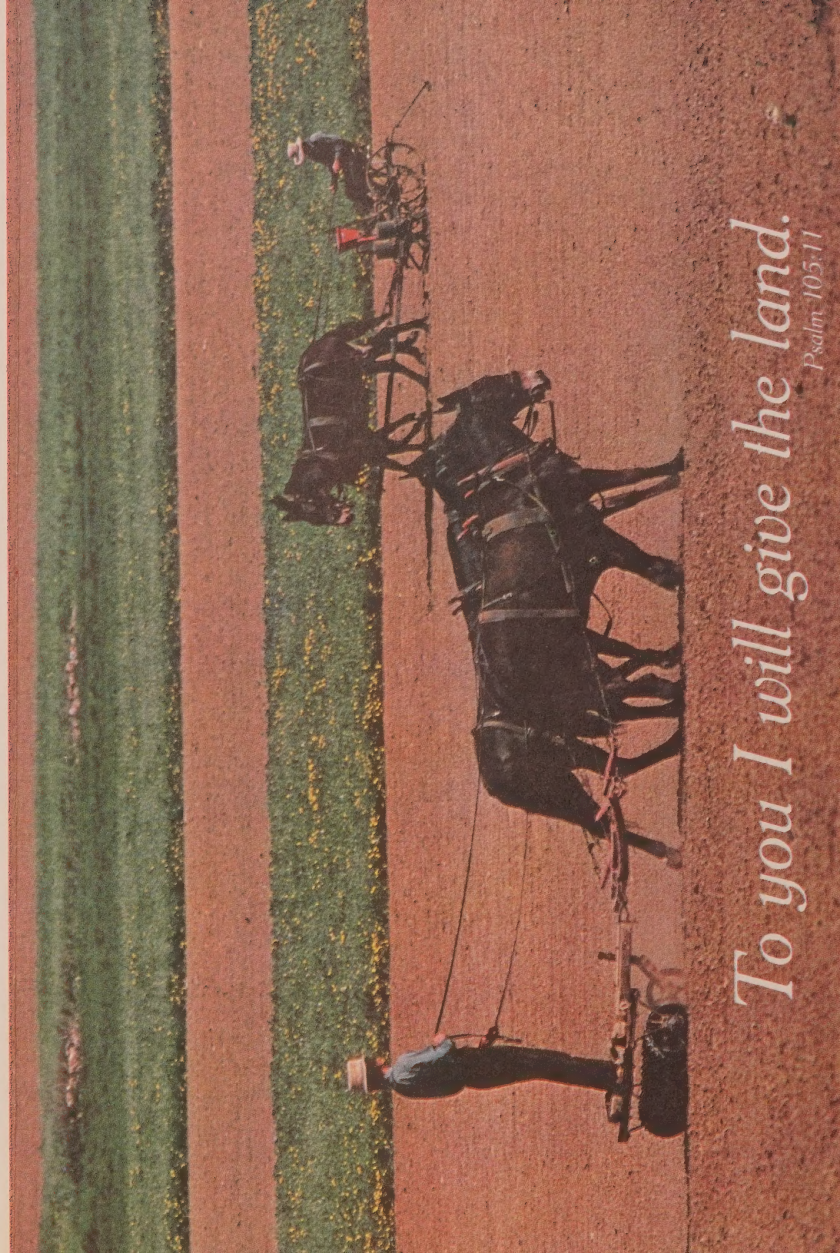
RAP: Wednesday, 8 p. m. Topic: "Does God Cause Suffering?"

THURSDAY: 7:30 p. m. Banquet Committee.

SATURDAY: Anniversary banquet at Conti Street Cafe. \$10.00
donation. Please buy or reserve your ticket tonight. See Mike or
Ron.

Next SUNDAY: FIRST ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SERVICE- Rev.
Elder John Hose will be preaching.

To all of you who have been part of this first year, our thanks and
our love. This is an important milestone, and we hope that all
of you will join us for the celebration of our first year together.



To you I will give the land.

Psalm 105:11

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476 9142

Third Sunday in Lent

March 2, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Bless God, O my soul; and all my being
bless God's holy name.

P: Bless God, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

L: God pardons our iniquities and heals our ills. God redeems
our lives from destruction.

P: God crowns us with kindness and compassion. Our time is
filled with good; our lives are renewed like the eagle's.

L: God secures justice and the rights of the oppressed.

P: God's ways have been made known to Moses and God's deeds
to the children of Israel.

L: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in
kindness.

P: God does not always chide nor keep wrathful forever.

L: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite
us according to our transgressions.

P: As high as the heavens are above the earth, so surpassing
is God's kindness to us.

L: As far as the east is from the west, so far has God put our
transgressions from us.

P: As parents have compassion on their children, So is God's
compassion toward us, for God knows how we are formed
and remembers that we are dust.

OPENING HYMN: Holy, Holy

Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3:1-8, 10-15
I Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1 9

SERMON: "Survival in the Rat Race" Rev. Elder John Hose

HYMN: Amazing Grace

R102

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Break Thou The Bread of Life 1235
(V4 Change "he" to "you")

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, by whose love fear vanishes,
by whose forgiveness sin falls away, by whose mercy our mortality
is overcome: come to us as we are, often fearful, sometimes sin-
ful, always mortal. By love persuade us; by forgiveness heal us;
by mercy resurrect us. Let your word conquer our pretending;
help our prayers speak out of our deepest need; awaken us to others'
distresses; and keep us strong in trust toward you, in the name of
Jesus who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is
your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the
test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign
and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN: Now On Land and Sea Descending M45

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Today is the first anniversary of MCC at Mobile. We thank all of
your for being with us today and helping us celebrate this marker
on our journey. Special thanks are due Rev. Elder John Hose for
coming from Atlanta to help us celebrate.

A special word of thanks is due Ron Hunt and Mike Fitzgerald for
all their work this week in helping with thousands of details that
made everything work.

Special thanks to Dale Delgado, who isn't just a visitor but who
made himself a friend, and pitched in and helped alongside the
rest of our people.

(over)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

To everyone else, who took part in making this weekend a success, a very special thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Tom for being Member of the Year, Ken for his work as Deacon, Larry for his love as greeter and usher, John Pettibone for many, many supportive acts, Dean for running the coffee hour all year, and to Rev. Dani D'Aunay and the people of St. Peter's - - all of whom were the recipients of this year's awards for service to MCC at Mobile.

RAP- Wednesday Evening 8:00 p.m. Topic: "Is Sin Punished With Disease?" This is number 4 in our series of Lenten Raps. This week we will be talking about how we feel about illness in our selves and others, and how we deal with those who are ill. Come and rap.

THURSDAY NIGHT: Newsletter committee meets at the Pastor's home. Newsletter goes to typist Friday.

FRIDAY, 8:00 p.m. Writers' Group meets at 57 No. Reed.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: A new members' class will begin next Sunday at 5:30 at the church. If you are interested in what MCC believes and how we live out our beliefs, please come and study with us. You do not have to join the church in order to be part of the study, but you do have to take the study in order to become a member.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Materials have been received from the District concerning the next District Conference at Nashville, April 25th through 27th. Ron has information about housing, motels costs, etc.

BANNER PLANNING COMMITTEE - Will meet 1/2 hour before Rap on Wednesday. If you are interested in planning, working on or being part of our getting the banner for District Conference together, please be there.

START THINKING ABOUT IDEAS FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK. First meeting of the Gay Pride Committee is March 21st. Church folk who want to be involved are invited to that meeting.



*The angel of the Lord appeared...
in a flame of fire.*
Exodus 3:2

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
4th Sunday in Lent March 9, 1986
SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will bless God at all times, praise
will ever be in my mouth.

P: Let my soul glory in God; the lowly will hear me and
be glad.

L: Glorify God with me, let us together praise God's holy
name.

P: I sought God and was answered and was delivered from
all my fears.

L: Look to God that you may be radiant with joy and you
may never blush with shame.

P: When the afflicted called out, God heard and from all
distress God saved them.

L: The angel of God encamps around those in awe of God
and delivers them.

P: Taste and see how good God is, happy are those who take
refuge in God.

L: Stand in awe of God, you holy ones, for naught is lack-
ing for those who stand before God's awesome presence.

P: The great grow poor and hungry, but those who seek for
God want for no good thing.

OPENING HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5: 9-12
II Corinthians 5:1-12
Luke 15:11-32

SERMON: WATCH OUT FOR THE OLDER BROTHER Rev. Ragona
(He's there in all of us!)

HYMN: Lord, I'm Coming Home Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.
Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus, I Come Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we confess that it is hard for
us to confess the fault in us. It is hard for us to return
when we have abandoned you. It is difficult for us to accept
you -- sometimes we wish you were not so definite in your plans
for us. Keep us from pride in our own aims, break us from the
violence within us, thwart our game playing, and awaken us to
the possibilities truly within us. Let your daylight open upon
us hope, good labor, new joys. We live because of you and are
alive in you. Make blessed all the days of our lives, in the
name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying "Our God in heaven,
holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and for-
give us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. Yours is the
power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN What A Fellowship Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

* * * * *

WEDNESDAY: RAP: "Why Bad Things Happen To Good People" and
our feelings of grief. Grief can be the beginning of Growth.
Come and talk about it with us.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: April 25, 26, 27th in Nashville. If you
want to attend, please see Ron for forms. If you have a form
please return it to Ron, with your check (or you may send it
to them directly). If you are planning on the motel, please
remember to say you are from MCC.



He leads me beside still waters.
Psalm 23:2

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
5th Sunday in Lent March 16, 1986
SINGSPIRATION

L: To you, O God, I call; O my Rock be not deaf to me.
P: Hear the sound of my pleading when I cry to you, lifting my hands to your holy shrine.
L: Do not place me with the wicked, with those who do wrong; who speak civilly to their neighbors, although evil is in their hearts.
P: In God my heart trusts, and I find help; then my heart exults, and with my song, I give thanks.
L: Blessed be God, who has heard the sound of my pleadings; God is my strength and my shield.
P: God is the strength of our people, the saving refuge of the anointed.
L: Save your people and bless your inheritance.
P: Feed them, and carry them forever.

OPENING HYMN: Come Thou Fount M23

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43: 16-21
Philippians 3: 7-16
Luke 15: 1-10

SERMON: Finding the Lost, Forgetting the Past Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer O God, hear our prayer O God
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Rock of Ages M204

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Bountiful God, because we are human we bring to the world our frailty as well as our wisdom; we touch the earth with destruction but also make it bloom. Our faith has its doubt; our doubt has its moments of faith. Our hope has fear, our weakness often has strength. We are as you have made us;

and we are often a mass of contradictions; good in our evil, evil in our playing at goodness. We know that we are yours, and that your power sustains us and renews and redeems us. O, God, you who come to us all in Jesus Christ, find us and forgive us, heal us and redeem us, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and for ever, Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA:

CLOSING HYMN: Take the Name of Jesus With You Printed

THE BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

RAP: "What Is Our Response to AIDS and to suffering in our lives?"
Come for this final rap in the series. There will be no rap next week, since it is Holy Week, and we have been invited to participate with St. Peter's on Thursday evening. New rap series begins the first Wednesday in April.

FRIDAY: Gay Pride Planning Committee Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
Those interested in working on Gay Pride Activities are welcome.

Deacon Ken Jones is in Room 609 at U.S.A. Medical Center. He sends his love to you all. He will have bronchoscopy tomorrow a.m. early.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and we welcome you all to church. Bring a friend then or Easter. It will be good for you both!



**The wild beasts
will
honor me.**
Isaiah 43:20

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

Palm Sunday

March 23, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

LEARNING HYMN: Allelu

Printed

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: In you, O God, I take refuge; let me
never be put to shame.

P: In your justice rescue me, incline your ear to me, make
haste to deliver me.

L: Be the rock of my refuge, a stronghold to give me safety;
my rock and my fortress.

P: For your name's sake you will lead and guide me; you will
deliver me from the snare they have set for me.

L: Have pity on me, O God, for I am in distress; I am consumed
with sorrow, both soul and body.

P: For all my foes I am an object of reproach, a laughingstock
to my neighbors, a dread to my friends; all who see me flee.

L: Let your face shine upon your servant; avenge me in your
kindness, let me not be put to shame.

P: Your great goodness, O God, is in store for those in awe of you;
which you show to those who take refuge in you.

OPENING HYMN: We're Marching to Zion

Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32: 36-39

Phillipians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-27

SERMON: Ghetto Mentality

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

M144

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence L198

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, come to us this day in the
parable of the meek king. Lift up our eyes always to the green tree.
Remind us of the burden borne by the small beast. Then call us
out from our walled cities, our everlasting fears, our endless pride.

Remind us that it was the children and the poor who recognized the
the Christ and danced their dances of trust. Hear us, O meek king,
give us honest eyes to see the falsehoods that beset us and return us
again to the redemption of all things by quiet victories. Blessed is
The One who builds up the waste places and gives his life for all
people. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our
God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do
not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the
power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus Shall Reign

L530

THE BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

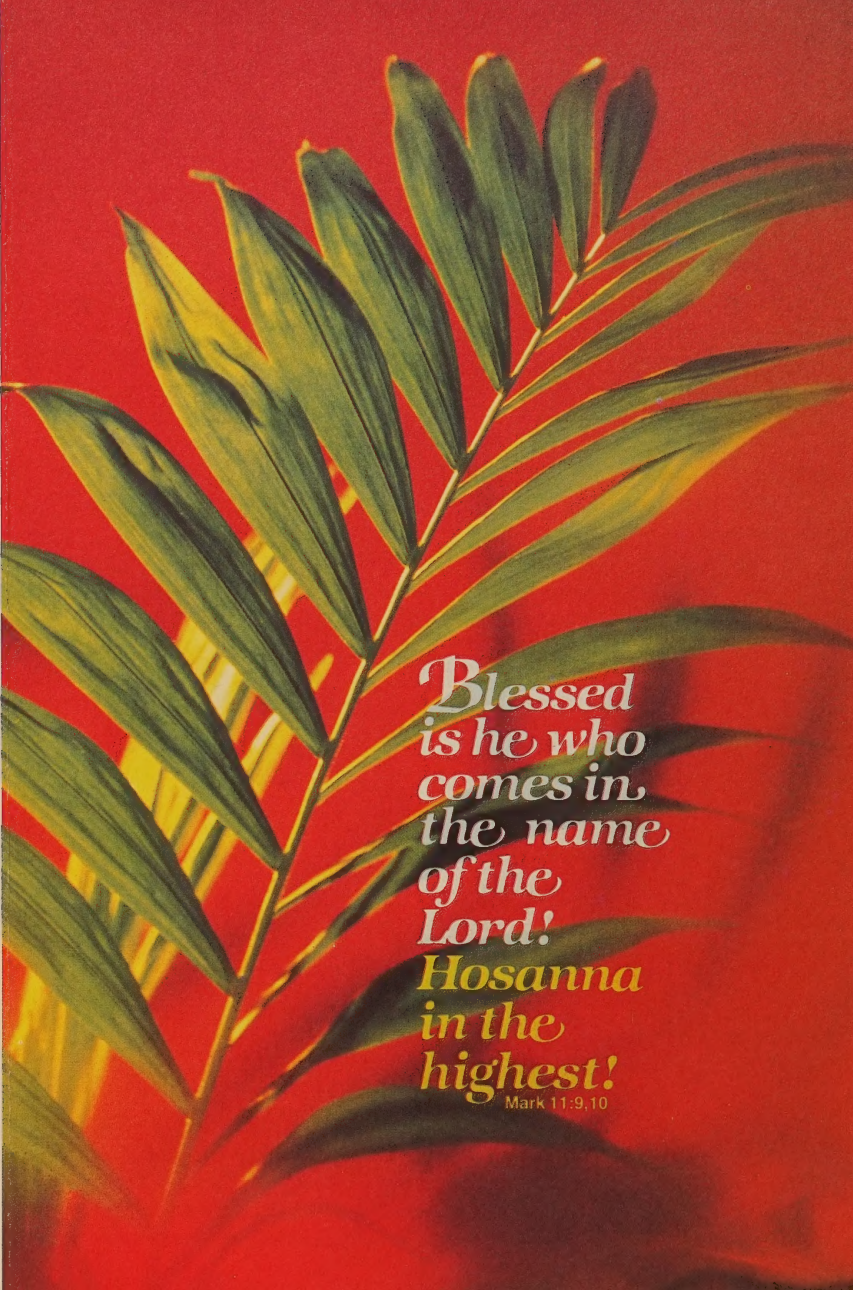
THERE IS NO RAP THIS WEEK: We have been invited to join with
the two Lutheran churches on Thursday evening for Maundy Thursday
service. Some of us will be attending, please join us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our organist! And to Pat Brown.

EASTER DAWN SERVICE - 8:00 a. m. , Mobile Bay Causeway,
please see John Pettibone for details. Breakfast afterwards at a
place of our choice.

EASTER SERVICE, 7:00 p. m. here at the church.

Our thanks to Tom and his crew of willing workers who exchanged the
compressor for the air conditioning system, so that we may have
coolness this summer. Contributions are welcome so that we may
help pay for this compressor.



*Blessed
is he who
comes in
the name
of the
Lord!
Hosanna
in the
highest!*

Mark 11:9,10

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

EASTER SUNRISE

L: Christ is risen! P: Christ is risen, indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing joyfully to our God, all you lands.
Break into song; sing praise.

P: Sing praise to God with the harp, with harp and melodious song.

L: With trumpets and melodious song, be joyful before our God.

P: Let the sea and what fills it resound, the world and those who dwell in it.

L: Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout with them for joy, before our God.

P: For God comes to rule the earth with justice and the people with equity.

Tog: Sing to our God a new song, for God has done wondrous deeds.

HYMN: Morning Has Broken

Printed

FIRST READING: (Isaiah 25: 9) O God, you are my God: I will extol you and praise your name; for you have fulfilled your wonderful plans of old, faithful and true. You have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin. The castle of the insolent is a city no more, nor ever to be rebuilt. Therefore, a strong people will honor you, fierce nations will fear you. For you are a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in distress; shelter from the rain, shade from the heat. As with the cold rain, as with the desert heat, even so you quell the uproar of the wanton. On this mountain the God of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, on this mountain God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over the nations; God will destroy death forever. God will wipe away all the tears from all the faces. The reproach of all peoples will God remove from the whole earth, for God has spoken. On that day it will be said, "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is to God to whom we looked, let us rejoice and be glad that God has saved us." "

SPECIAL MUSIC At Calvary

SECOND READING: (Colossians 3:1 4) Since you have been raised up in company with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms where Christ is seated at God's right hand. Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth. After all, you have died! Your life is hidden now with Christ in God. When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with him in glory.

SPECIAL MUSIC Up From The Grave He Arose

THIRD READING Early in the morning on the first day of the week while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple (the one whom Jesus loved) and told them, "The Lord has been taken away from the tomb! We do not know where they have put him!" At that point, Peter and the other disciple started out running toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter but bent down to peer in, and saw the wrappings lying on the ground. Presently, Simon Peter came along behind him and entered the tomb. He observed the wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth which had covered the head not lying with the wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. Remember, as yet they did not understand the scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. With this, the disciples went back home. Meanwhile Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stopped to peer inside and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus body had lain. "Woman," they asked her, "why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put him." She had no sooner said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there. But she did not know him. "Woman," he asked, "why are you weeping? Who is it that you are looking for?" She supposed he was the gardener, so she said, "Sir, if you are the one who carried him off, tell me where you have laid him; and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned to him and said, "Rabboni. (teacher)" ". . . Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my God and your God!'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" she announced, and then she told them what he had said to her.

COMMUNION HYMN: ALLELU

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus the Christ, has mercy on us. Forgive, renew and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

L: GOD be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA (Alleluia; Christ is risen; Alleluia)

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

° ° ° ° ° ° ° °

WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO OUR EASTER DAWN (?)
SERVICE AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL RETURN THIS EVENING
TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICE AT ST° PETER'S.

We plan to breakfast following the service at Shoney's at Spanish Fort and hope you will join us there, as well.

May all of you have a blessed Easter and may you serve with us the Risen Christ.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

EASTER SUNDAY March 30, 1986
SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L; Alleluia, Christ is risen.

P: Christ is risen, indeed.

L: Give thanks to God, who is good; whose mercy endures forever.

P: Let those in awe of God say, "God's mercy endures forever."

L: My strength and my courage is God, who has been my savior.

P: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of God.

L: Although God has chastised me, yet God has not delivered me to death.

P: Open to me the gates of justice; I will enter them and give thanks to God.

L: This gate is of God, and the just shall enter it.

P: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

L: By God has this been done, it is wonderful in our eyes.

P: This is the day which our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 15: 1-11
I Corinthians 15: 12-26
Luke 24: 1-12

SERMON: Why search for the Living among the dead! Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Day of Resurrection Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God; hear Our prayer, O God;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

SPECIAL MUSIC: At Calvary - Ensemble and Choir

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Were You There L92

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise be to you, O sovereign and majestic God, for in our rising you are our strength; in our living, you are our protector; in our falling, you are our deliverer. Too often we are full of self-pity, the enjoyment of our angers, the feeding of our prejudices. We have wasted our days and dreaded our nights. We are often baffled, troubled at heart, and feel useless. Turn us now from the tangle to a plain path, to a trust in you, and transform us by your steady forgiveness into new people vividly alive in all times and places because we are alive in you; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord in whose name we pray, "Our God in heaven, Holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen."

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Christ is Risen, Alleluia. (Sing 3X)

CLOSING HYMN: He Lives Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

RAP GROUP MOVES TO TUESDAY: Please do not forget!

BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday night. First class: What is the Bible, and how did it develop?

FRIDAY: Writer's' meeting. Everyone interested in writing or who thinks they might like to write, please come and enjoy.

We had a marvelous turn out this morning for our Easter Dawn service, held at the Causeway Park at the bank of the river, with waterfowl and fog. It was very beautiful and we thank everyone who was there. Happy Easter, everyone.

He has risen.

Matthew 28:6



Cover Photo: John Gerlach/Tom Stack and Associates

Lectionary for Easter Day: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-48; Colossians 3:1-11; John 20:1-8 or Matthew 28:1-10

4844

Lit in U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
2nd Sunday in Easter April 6, 1986
SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing to God a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

P: Let Israel be glad in their maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their ruler.

L: Let them praise God's name in festive dance; let them sing God's praise with timbrel and harp.

P: For God's people are loved and the lowly adorned with victory.

L: Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy upon their couches.

P: Let the high praise of God be in their throats; this is the glory of all God's faithful.

OPENING HYMN: The Church's One Foundation

Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN: I'm So Glad I'm A Part of the Family of God

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:12-16

Revelation 1:9-19

John 20:19-31

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHOIR AND ENSEMBLE

SERMON: Thomas' Doubts; Our Doubts

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

ML79

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, enter us with your light. Be as morning to our dark; as a fair day to our fears. Surround us with your eternal, overarching love. Warm us with forgiveness for each other, for it is only when we forgive that we are forgiven. Ready us for difficulties we must bear and enliven us with such trust in you that makes our confession honest and our lives joyous. Restore us when our faith is tired. Arouse us when our love is weak, and our wills enfeebled by our fears. Turn our hands to compassion, our minds to reason, and our hearts to trust. This we beseech you, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying "Our God in heaven, holy is your

your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Christ is Risen, Alleluia

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

* * * * *

RAP: Tuesday evening. "The Fine Art of Cruising," at 8:00 p.m. at the parsonage.

BIBLE STUDY, Wednesday. "What has geography got to do with the Bible?" Come and get really familiar with what's between the covers of your Bible -- it can be fun and enlightening.

THURSDAY: Planning meeting for lay service next Sunday.

SATURDAY: Pastor will be entertaining Rev. D'Aunay and we would like this to be a private evening of sharing between two pastors. Please respect this time, unless there is a real emergency.

SUNDAY: The pastor and Shirley will be in Pensacola visiting friends and family. This is the first Sunday we have been off since the founding of the church. Wish us a happy vacation (even if it is only one day!)



Peace
be with you.
John 20:19

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, AL 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
3rd. Sunday in Easter April 13, 1986
SINGSPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God, I cried out to you and you healed me.

P: God, you delivered me from the netter world; you preserved me from among those falling into the pit.

L: Sing praise to God, all faithful ones, and give thanks to God's holy name.

P: What gain would there be from my lifeblood, from my going down into the grave? Would dust give you thanks or proclaim your faithfulness?

L: Hear, O God, and have pity on me; O God, be my helper.

P: You changed my mourning into dancing; you took off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my soul might sing praise to you without ceasing. God, forever will I give you thanks.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise To God

Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:27-42
Revelations 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

SERMON: The Boundless Love

Mike Fitzgerald

HYMN: Love Lifted Me

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go L324

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we come before you contrite

and eager to mend our ways. We thank you for another day of life; for bread upon our tables; for friends who love us in spite of what we are; for mercy given us beyond our deserving; for the summer sparrow; for the immeasurable joy of joy; and for Jesus Christ our risen Saviour. Forgive us for the times we have fallen short; for every time and place we did not love the goodness of humankind, nor praise the glory of God. Forgive us and heal us this day, through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory now and forever. Amen.

L: GOD BE WITH YOU.

P: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

L: LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

P: WE LIFT THEM UP TO GOD.

L: LET US GIVE THANKS.

P: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD
THAN

SANCTUS: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY GOD OF POWER AND GRACE;
HEAVEN + EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE
HIGHEST. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF
OUR GOD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP
MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: CHRIST HAS DIED.
CHRIST HAS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN: Rejoice Ye Pure IN HEART
PRINTED

BENEDICTION: L: GOD GO WITH YOU.

P: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

THE PEACE OF GOD GO WITH YOU.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JON MARTIN + BOB HANDLEY.

HAPPY 4TH ANNIVERSARY TOM + DEAN.

{RAP TUES., 8PM AT PARSONAGE: "FROM INFATUATION
TO LOVE"

{BIBLE STUDY WED.

CONGREGATIONAL MTG.: SUNDAY, APRIL 20,
AFTER SERVICE

HAPPY WEEKEND MARGE + SHIRLEY.

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Edward H. Plumptre

Arthur H. Messiter

1. Re - joice, ye pure in heart, Re - joice, give thanks and sing;
2. Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Au - tu - man voic - es ring;
3. With all the an - gel choirs, With all the saints on earth;
4. Yes, on thro' life's long path, Still chant - ing as ye go;
5. Then on, ye pure in heart, Re - joice, give thanks and sing;

Your ies - tal ban - ner wave on high, The cross of Christ PRAIS - ING.
Raise high your tree, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es SING.
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
From youth to age, by night and day, In glad - ness and in woe.
Your glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, The cross of Christ PRAIS - ING.

Refrain

Re - joice, re - joice, Re - joice, give thanks and sing.
Re - joice, re - joice,



And I heard every creature
in heaven and on earth.

Revelation 5:13

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

4th Sunday in Easter

April 20, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing joyfully to God, all you lands;
serve our God with gladness.

P: Come before God with joyful song; knowing that God is our
ruler, and we are God's people.

L: God has made us; and we are the flock God tends.

P: Enter the gates with thanksgiving, come into the courts with
praise.

L: Give thanks to God; bless God's holy name.

P: For God is good; God's kindness endures forever, and God's
faithfulness to all generations.

OPENING HYMN: PRAISE HIM, PRAISE HIM

Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:44-52

Revelations 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

SERMON: Surviving Trials

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Whispering Hope

R15

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty God, you have called us to
life from death; you have summoned us from our separate darknesses
to your light. In you alone we hope. Let our prayers come to you,
fragile, bewildered, and shattered though we may be. Let our false-
ness tangle with your truth, shake our vanity by your power, heal
our fear by your hope. Teach us to find you in silence, in others,
and deep within ourselves. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to
pray, saying "Our God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from

evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and
forever. Amen. "

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Christ is risen, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

MONDAY: AIDS Information Seminar at Universalist-Unitarian
Fellowship, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Dacso, Phil Ward, and others will be
speaking. Tell others, bring a friend. Refreshments.

TUESDAY: Rap. "Games People Play. "

WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY; Joseph in Egypt.

THURSDAY: We leave for District Conference.

Immediately following tonight's service, there will be a short
congregational meeting dealing with our plans as a church for the
coming year, and how we hope to meet our goals involved in
becoming a commissioned church. Bring your ideas, stay for
coffee and the meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: To Mike Fitz. He won't be here tonight, but
we will celebrate his birthday next week.

Mary Del is out of the hospital and recovering. Joe has a new home,
Mrs. Lambert has a new home, also Mike and Linda have new jobs.
Prayers are being answered!



He will
guide them
to springs
of
living water.

Revelation 7:17

Cover: Soleduck Canyon, Olympic National Forest, Washington.

Lectionary for Fourth Sunday of Easter:
Psalm 100; Acts 13:14-16, 26-39, 43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
5th. Sunday in Easter
SINGSPIRATION

Mobile, ALA. 36608
(205) 476-9142
April 27, 1986

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God, every day I will bless your name,
and praise you for ever and ever.

P: God is great and highly to be praised. Generations praise
your works and proclaim your might.

L: We speak of the splendor of your glorious majesty and tell
of your wondrous works. We discourse of the power of your
deeds and declare your greatness.

P: We publish the fame of your abundant goodness and joyfully
sing of your justice.

L: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great
kindness. God is good to all and compassionate toward
all God's works.

P: Let all your works give you thanks, O God, and let your
faithful ones bless you.

L: Let us discourse of the glory of you dominion and speak of
your grace, making known to all humankind your might and
the glorious splendor of your dominion.

P: Your dominion is a dominion for all ages, and endures
through all generations.

OPENING HYMN: Family of God

Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 14:19-28
Revelation 21:1-5
John 13:21-35

SERMON: "...But the greatest of these is love.". Pat Brown
HYMN: In My Heart There Rings A Melody

R9

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together

L212

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Eternal God, take from us that sin by
which we declare we have no sin. Make us sorry for all the
ways we have wounded one another. Keep us penitent for our

neglect of the world's suffering, for the sick we have not
visited, for the hungry we have not fed, for the naked we
have not clothed, for the prisoners we have not set free.
Especially, deepen our sadness for not having loved enough
the holy, the chaste, and the innocent. Humble us now in
our darkness that we may make ready to receive your Light,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:
"Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign,
and the glory, and and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died, christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

THE ALLELUIA

CLOSING HYMN: Pass It On

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

* * * * *
Happy Birthday Mike Fitzgerald, April 23!

Housewarming bash @ Judson and Marcus', 59 Mohawk St.,
Sat., May 3 at 4:30 PM till...

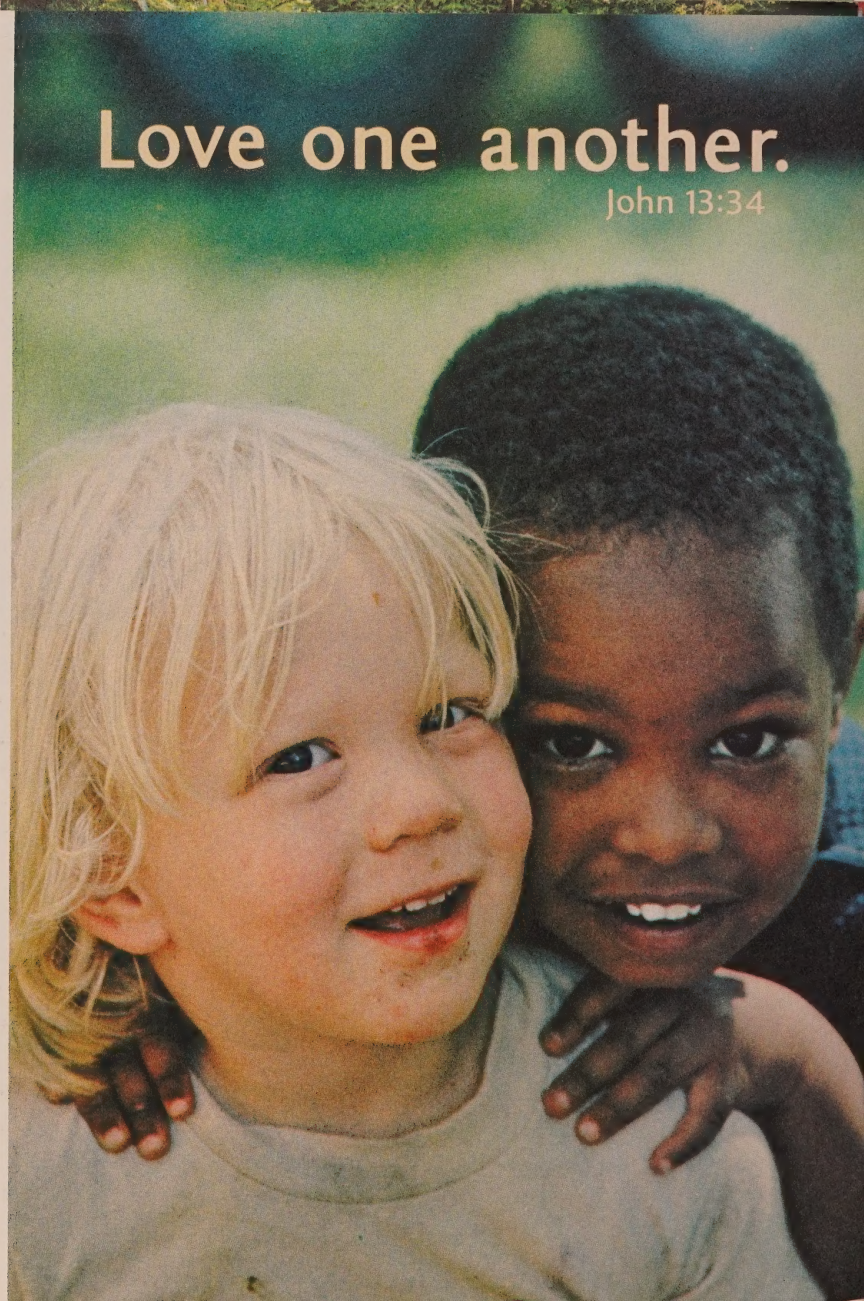
RAP Tuesday at the parsonage, 8 PM - "Fighting Fair".

BIBLE STUDY Wednesday at the parsonage, 8 PM - "Joseph in
Egypt".

Rev. Marge will be back next Sunday - ALLELUIA!!! We wish
her and Shirley, Ken, Larry, Vivian and Teddy a successful
and uplifting conference and a safe return. They are in
Nashville, TN. this weekend for the GLAD Dist. Spring Conf..

Love one another.

John 13:34



"Tableau" from ON THESE I STAND by Countee Cullen. Copyright 1925 by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., renewed 1953 by Ida M. Cullen. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

Lectionary for 5th Sunday of Easter:
Psalm 145:1-13; Acts 13:44-52; Revelation 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

SINGSPARATION

May 4, 1986

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: May God have mercy on us and bless us,
may God's face shine upon us.

P: Let your way be known upon earth; among all peoples your
salvation.

L: May all people praise you, O God; may the nations exult and
be glad.

P: You rule the nations in equity, the nations of earth you guide.

L: May the peoples praise you, O God; may the nations praise you.

P: The earth has yielded its fruits; God, our God, has bleed us.

L: May God bless us and may all the ends of the earth praise God.

P: May the peoples praise you; may the nations praise you, O God.

OPENING HYMN: Praise to God and Thanks We Bring Printed

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 15:1-6, 22-29
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 4:23-29

SERMON: Troubling the waters-Upsetting the saints Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Solid Rock M244

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear Our Prayer, O God; Hear our prayer, O God,
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus M240

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we confess that we do not like
to part with our sins. We love our hates, we cling to the chains of
our fears, we take pride in our prisons. When life beats us down,
when fear manacles us, when our prisons keep us from life and joy,
we hide from you and claim our misery. Free us, let the keys of
your forgiveness and grace set us free again and again. Come with
your morning to our darkness that in thee we might arise in light
and go forth in mercy. Teach us that life in you is a taste of our
eternity, for in you is life, and freedom, and love. In the name
of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven,
holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done, on

earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and for-
give us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring
us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hear

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: Now on Land and Sea Descending M45

BENEDICTION: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: God go with you. And also with you.

Thanks to those who "minded the store" while we were at conference.
We expect to have a written report in everyone's hands very shortly.

RAP: Tuesday, "Passive Agression" (what happens when we're
afraid to fight, and how can we control it.)

BIBLE STUDY: The 12 Tribes in Canaan. (Frontier days in the
Holy Land.) 8 p.m. at the parsonage.

GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, PRICING PARTY FRIDAY EVENING
Please see Judson for instructions.

MOTHER'S DAY IS NEXT SUNDAY* We would welcome your mothers
in church, and we especially welcome all gay mothers. We will have
child care available.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, Marge and Shirley, on their first year. (Yes,
darlings, a relationship can survive MCC!)

Mary Ann Sellars father died this week, and we were privileged to
perform the graveside service. We thank the Sellars family for the
privilege of serving them.

Cover: Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia. Photo by Ed Wynne

Lectionary for Sixth Sunday of Easter:
Psalm 64; Acts 14:8-26; Revelation 21:2-4,10-14,22-27; John 14:23-29

5832 LITURGICAL LITANY
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE



*God...
made the heaven and
the earth and the sea.*
Acts 14:15

SINGSPARATION

May 11, 1986

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will give thanks to God with all my heart, joining the company and assembly of the just.

P: Great are the works of God; exquisite in their delights.

L: Majesty and glory are the work of God, and God's justice endures forever.

P: God has made known God's powerful works and given God's people the inheritance of the nations.

L: The works of God's hands are faithful and just, sure are all God's precepts..

P: Reliable forever, and ever, wrought in truth and equity; sending deliverance to the people.

L: God has ratified a covenant forever; holy and awesome is God's name.

P: The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; prudent are all who live by it.

Tog: God's praise endures forever.

OPENING HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

M7

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 1: 1-11

Ephesians 1: 16-23

Luke 24: 44-53

SERMON: *Post Resurrection Faith*

HYMN: Ye Servants of God

M169

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Come Ye Disconsolate

M312

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we approach you for mercy, we come to be healed, we come for your forgiveness. Too often we stumble in the darkness of our sins. We live with strange fears. We seek for things that do not satisfy, and we are not at peace -- within ourselves or with you. Come now and heal us, for only in you is there health and a clear path. Come now and forgive us, for only in you is there peace.

Come now and dwell within us, for only in your presence is our life complete. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia. Christ is risen. Christ is coming.

CLOSING HYMN: Heavenly Sunlight .. Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

* * * * *

Our thanks to everyone who helped with the pricing and the Yard Sale. We made \$180.00, which will make our treasurer happy -- and relieve some of our financial distress. Thank you all.

RAP GROUP: Tuesday evening, 8 p.m. Topic: Facing changes in our lives.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study - picking up where we left off -- the conquest of Canaan and the 12 tribes of Israel. If you are not a Bible reader, and have no idea what's in the Bible, this is a good place to begin. Come and study with us.

IN HOSPITAL: Terry is in Mobile Infirmary. Please visit her if you can.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO MOMS OF GAYS AND TO GAY MOMS!!



Their eyes were opened
and they recognized him.

Luke 24:31

Cover: *La Cena in Emmaus*, Rembrandt; photo furnished by Scala/Editorial
Photocolor Archives, Inc.

Lectionary for the Third Sunday of Easter: Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 36-47;
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

5841 LITURGY IN U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
7th Sunday in Easter May 8, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: (All standing) L: Clap your hands, all you people, shout to God with cries of gladness,

P: For God, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king of all the earth.

L: God mounts the throne amount shouts of joy and trumpet blasts and gives us our inheritance.

P: Sing praise to God, sing praise; Sing praise to God who rules over us, sing praise.

L: Ruler of the age is God, sing praise; God reigns over all the nations; God sits on a holy throne.

P: The princes of all the peoples are gathered together with our people, for God is the guardian of the earth; God is supreme; sing praise.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 7:55-8:3

Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

John 17: 20-26

SERMON: The Faith of the Early Church

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: I Love to Tell the Story

M249

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE: Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer O God;

Incline thine ear to us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

COMMUNION HYMN: I Would Be True

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we move through your world with our vision blurred, seeing it upside down, crooked and contrary. We pledge ourselves to our own self-interest and wonder why we are not loved; we make mountains into molehills and molehills into mountains, and wonder why our opinions are disregarded; we wet up briar trees of self-pity and do not see the climbing forests of your grace. God, you who are the true light, keep us from stumbling in our own dark. Raise up our heads and open our eyes to see the wonder of your joy. Teach us to live in grace, give love, and bring joy that we might

bear witness that now is the acceptable time, now is the day of God's favor; in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Christ is risen, Christ is coming.

CLOSING HYMN: When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

R108

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: and also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

RAP: "Camp" - (and we don't mean where your mom and dad sent you in the summer when you were a kid!) Gay humor and what it means, how we use it, and how healthy is it. Tuesday, 8 p.m.

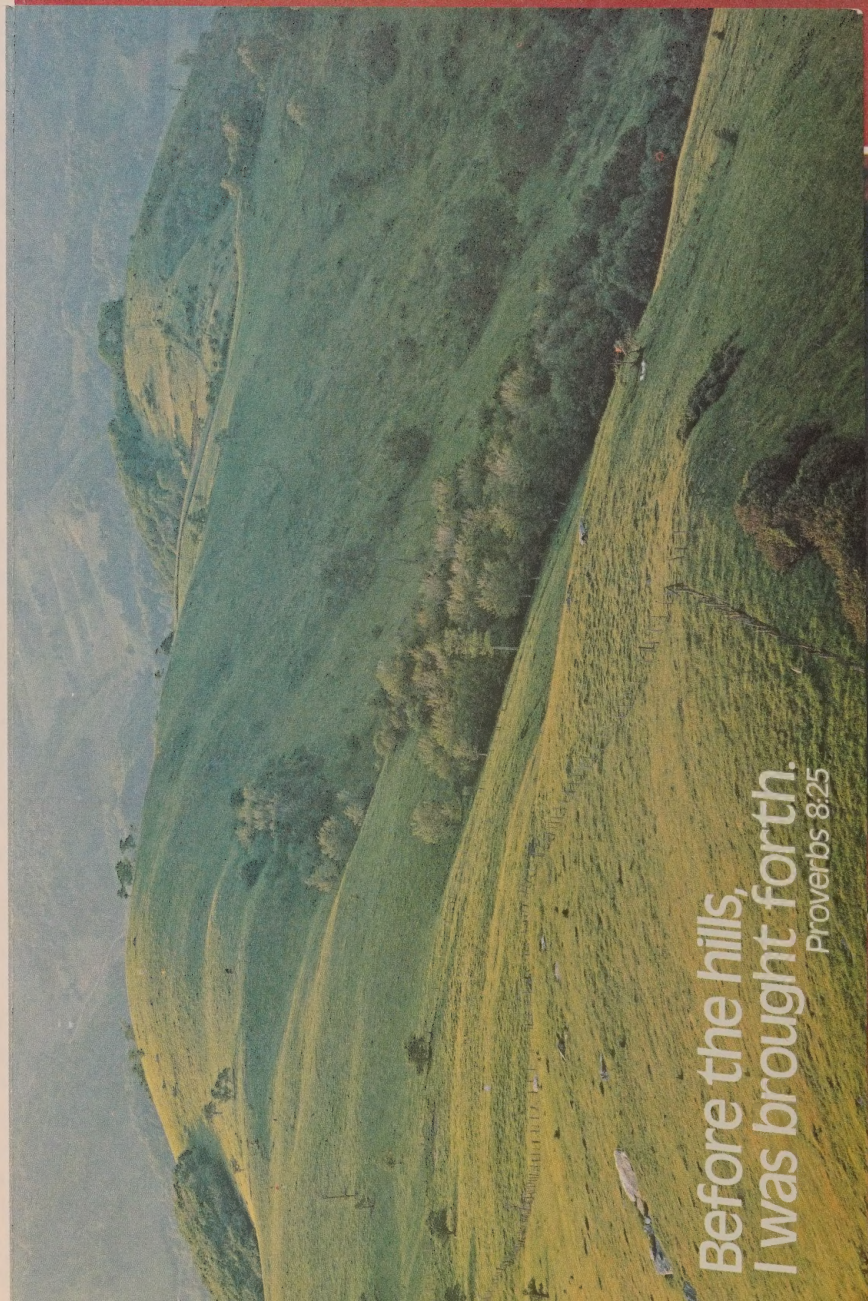
BIBLE STUDY: The Tribal Confederation. Wednesday, 8 p.m.

May we remind everyone to come to the above activities on time. Some people come on time and when you are late it makes everyone wait and is not fair to others. Please call, as some do, and we can start without you rather than wait for you.

Immediately following service, John Pettibone, our Outreach chairperson would like to present an idea which he has had for your consideration and/or approval. Please stay and talk with us.

Thank you all for allowing us some time off this weekend. We appreciate your thoughtfulness, and the ability to rebuild our store of energy. We love you and we'd like to serve you a long time, and this helps.

Buddy training will begin in July. We need some start up time for the instructors to talk first, and then we will begin.



Before the hills,
I was brought forth.
Proverbs 8:25

Cover: "Appalachian Pastoral". Copyright © 1980 by William A. Bake. Reprinted from *The American South* by permission of the publisher, Oxmoor House, Inc.

Lectionary for Trinity Sunday:
Psalm 8; Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

5835 LORD IN U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Ala. 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

Pentecost

May 25, 1986

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Bless God, O my soul! O God, my God,
you are great indeed!

P: You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with
a cloak.

L: You make the winds your messengers, and flaming fire your
minister.

P: How manifold are your works, O God! When you send forth
your spirit, they are created; you renew the face of the earth.

L: May the glory of God endure forever; May God be glad in all
God's works.

P: I will sing to God all my life, pleasing God will be my theme;
I will be glad in God.

Tog: Bless God, O my soul; O God, my God; you are great indeed!

OPENING HYMN: Immortal, Invisible

L 526

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Genesis 11:1-9

Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-16:11

SERMON: Sanity out of Confusion

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Send Down Thy Truth, O God

M181

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Breathe on Me, Breath of God

M180

PRA YER OF CONFESSION: O God, we have sinned against heaven
in thy sight. We have been clever rather than kind; respectable
rather than real, practical rather than honest. We have been cynical
in the sight of the holy, and out of the poverty of our own vision
scoffed at the riches of faith. O God, take our thin, little, meager,
beaten, self-pitying souls and by thy grace give them substance and
hugeness and generosity and victory and trust; through Jesus Christ
our risen Lord, in whose name we pray, Our God in heaven, holy is
your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it

is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to
the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign
and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosann in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Thank you, Jesus, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: God of Grace, and God of Glory

I415

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

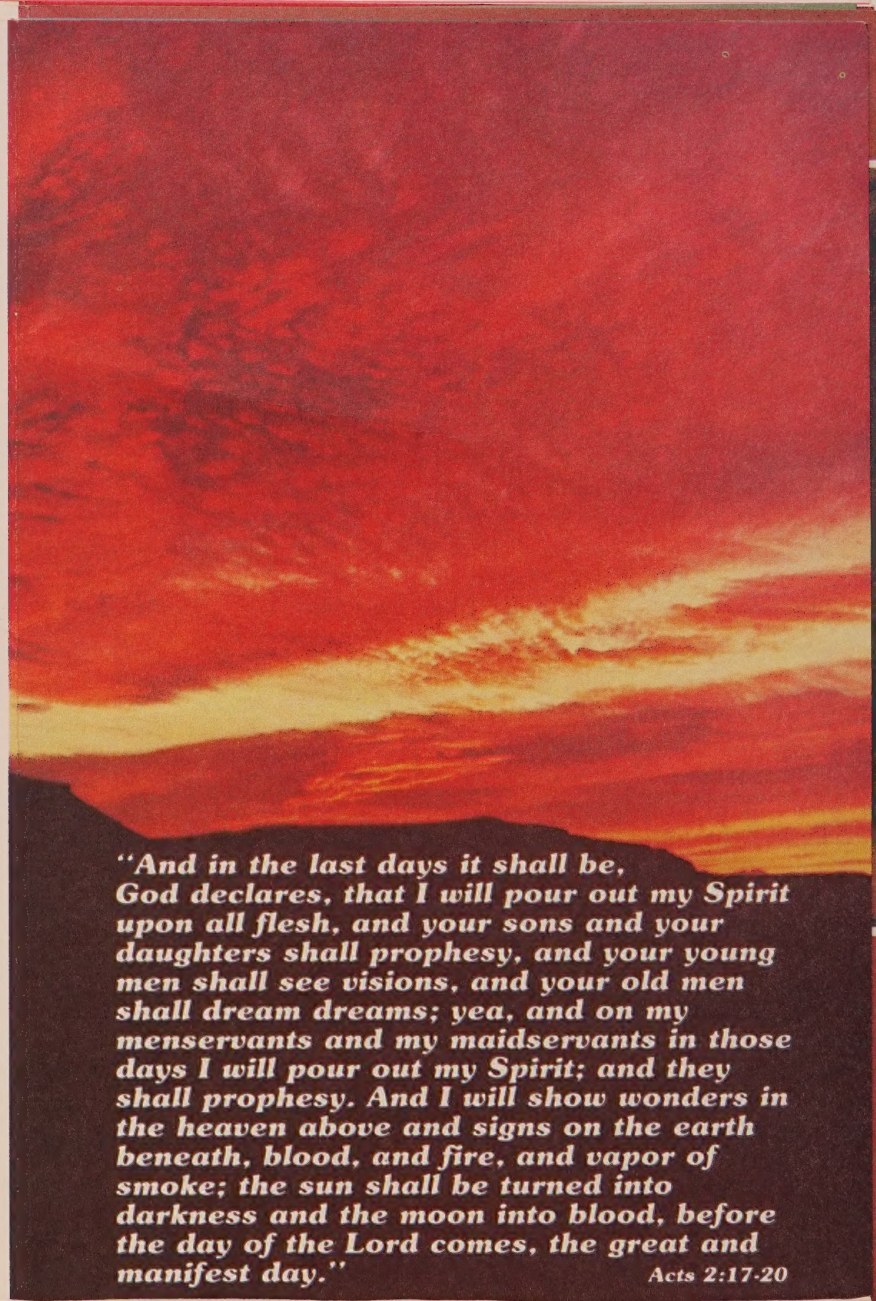
RAP: Tuesday, 8 p.m. COMMITMENT?? What does it mean,
how do we mean it if we do?

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. David the King. This is an essential
topic in the Old Testament if we want to understand the New Testa-
ment. Come and study with us.

SATURDAY: The pastor is taking a final exam in "Paul" and has a
paper due. Please pray for her.

SAMARITAN SUNDAY: Next Sunday we will be taking the offering
for Samaritan College, our MCC educational wing for clergy and
laity. Please bring an extra offering for them and we will have
envelopes available. Your pastor taught at Samaritan, and the
service they provide the Fellowship is outstanding; most of the
instructors are not paid, but the Deans are, and the Registrar is.
They will be holding a six week "Boot Camp" for student clergy this
summer and some of these funds will be used to support that.
Your future pastor may be at Samaritan now; make certain s/he is
well prepared. Give generously.

Today is the Osiris picnic; pray for a safe journey back to Mobile
for all participants.



***"And in the last days it shall be,
God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit
upon all flesh, and your sons and your
daughters shall prophesy, and your young
men shall see visions, and your old men
shall dream dreams; yea, and on my
menservants and my maidservants in those
days I will pour out my Spirit; and they
shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in
the heaven above and signs on the earth
beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of
smoke; the sun shall be turned into
darkness and the moon into blood, before
the day of the Lord comes, the great and
manifest day."***

Acts 2:17-20

Cover: Robert Cushman Hayes

Lectioary for Pentecost: Psalm 104:1-4, 24-33; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:1-21;
John 20:19-23

6842 LITURGICAL U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

AT MOBILE

4500 BIT AND SPUR Road
Rev. Marge Ragone, Pastor

Mobile, ALA. 36608
(205) 476-9142

1st Sunday after Pentecost

June 1, 1986

Singspiration

Call To Worship: L: You have exalted your majesty above the heavens; you have fashioned praise because of your foes, to silence the hostile and vengeful.

P: When I behold your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and stars which you have made and set in place -

L: Who are we that you should be mindful of us, or our descendants that you would care for them?

P: You have made us a little lower than the angels and crowned us with your glory and honor.

L: You have given us rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under our feet.

P: All sheep and oxen, even the beasts of the field; the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.

Tog: O God, our God, how glorious is your name over all the earth.

OPENING HYMN: O How Glorious Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 3:1-16

SERMON: BORN AGAIN OR BORN FROM ABOVE? Rev. Ragone

HYMN: BLESSED ASSURANCE

M 238

Prayers of the People

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

OFFERTORY Prayer COMMUNION HYMN - Precious Lord

Prayer of Confession: Eternal God, take from us that sin by which we declare that we have no sin. Make us sorry for all the ways we have wounded one another. Keep us penitent for our neglect of the world's suffering, for the sick we have not visited, for the naked we have not clothed, for the prisoners we have not set free. Especially, deepen our sorrow for not having loved enough the chaste,

the holy and the innocent, as you have loved them. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power, the reign and the glory now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sanctus: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

The Breaking of Bread / The Blessing of the cup

The Mystery of our faith: Christ has died.

CHRIST IS RISEN.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Come, O Spirit, ALLELUIA

Closing Hymn - Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Benediction - L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

Passing of The Peace - The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

Happy Birthday - all June birthdays will be celebrated tonight - happy birthday, Ron, Mary Ann, Marge, Marcus. (Mary)

The funeral of James (Buddy) Shipp will be held at Crawford Memorial Baptist Cemetery, Semmes, on Monday at 3:30pm.

Tuesday, Rap - Horizontal Violence - Oppressed groups fighting each other. (8:00pm)

Wednesday - Bible Study - The Fall of the Two Kingdoms. (8:pm)

Board meeting tonight following service.

Lower district "Day in the Sun" committee meet with Joe Tate after service.

Church member needs roommate - call 476-9142.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

Third Sunday After Pentecost June 8, 1986

SINGSPARATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Happy is the one whose fault is taken away; whose sin is covered.

P: Happy is the one to whom God imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

L: When I acknowledged my fault to God and did not cover my guilt; I said, "I will confess my sins to God," and you took away all my guilt.

P: The voice of God says, "I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk; I will counsel you, keeping a protective eye on you.

L: Be not senseless like the mule or horse, with bit and bridle their temper must be curbed, else they will not come near you.

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but kindness surrounds the one who trusts in God.

L: Be glad in God and rejoice, you just;

P: Exult, all you upright of heart.

HYMN: Holy, Holy Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: II Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15
Galatians 2:11-21
Luke 7: 36-8:3

SERMON: God Loves Great Lovers Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Love Divine M 372

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Just As I Am (Vs. 1, 3.5.6) M198

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, for all within us that has wounded others and caused them grievance, we ask your pardon. For the malice in us and the jealousy; for the cold heart, we pray your forgiveness. Above all, we cry your mercy on the general misery of humanity: for our deaf ears that will not hear and our blind eyes that will not see. Awaken our compassion, strengthen our love. Through Jesus

Christ, who came to save and to set free, we pray, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Come, O Spirit, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: Come, Holy Spirit Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

* * * * *

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Rev. Marge, Ron, and Lura.

MONDAY: 7ish. Esquire Lounge. All are welcome.

TUESDAY: Rap -- Last rap of the series, "Where have we been and where are we going?"

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. The Fall of Judea. (This will be the last Bible study until the second week of July. The pastor will be in school four nights a week for three weeks during the last two weeks of June and the first week of July. Please catch up on your reading -- read ahead, and we'll come back to the Exile and a whole new kind of God.)

SATURDAY: Birthday Party (the pastor keeps wondering what kind of surprise you have in mind!) at Martin and Marty's. Call 473-3094 for further information, including directions and what you all are bringing.

Remember the Gay Pride activities -- AIDS outdoor service, picnic, and Holocaust memorial service here at church.

Cover: "Christ with St. Joseph in the Carpenter's Shop," by Georges de la Tour.
The Louvre, Paris, France. Art Reference Bureau.

Lectionary for Third Sunday after Pentecost:
Psalm 32; II Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15; Galatians 2:11-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

6832 LHM in U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE

I will instruct you
and teach you.

Psalm 32:8

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

4500 BIT AND SPUR ROAD
REV. MARGE RAGONA, PASTOR
4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Mobile, ALA 36608
(205) 456-9142
JUNE 15, 1986

SINGSPARATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L- I will extol you, O God, for
you drew me near.

P: You did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

L: O God, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me.

P: You preserved me from among those going down
into the pit.

L: Sing praise to God, you faithful ones, and give thanks
to God's holy name.

P: For God's anger lasts but a moment; God's good will
for a lifetime.

L: Once, in my serenity, I said, "I shall never be disturbed."

P: God, in your good will you had endowed me with majesty
and strength; but when you hid your face I was afraid.

L: You changed my mourning into dancing; you removed
my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.

P: My soul sings praises to you without ceasing; O God, my
God, forever I will give you thanks.

OPENING HYMN: SING PRAISE TO GOD PRINTED

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: ZECARIAH 12: 7-10
GALATIANS 3: 23-29
LUKE 9: 18-24

SEASON: THE DAILY CROSS

REV. RAGONA

HYMN: ALL ARE ONE IN CHRIST

PRINTED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMON HYMN: MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PRINTED

O God, we become aware of your light, which awakens in
us the knowledge of our own dimness. We know our misery,
are aware that our minds are lazy, and that our hearts have
become dull through selfishness. We are meager in love
and with love. We make boredom our companion and
share our indifference. We allow terror to stalk us even
in the day light. We spend our lives running nowhere. Now
at this table, turn us from our dimness, our doldrums, and
our love of death, to take your shining into ourselves, to feed

upon your mercy and to come alive in your grace;
through Jesus, the CHRIST, who taught us to pray, saying;
Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion
come, your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever, Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God

L: Let us give thanks

P: It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace;
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna
in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the
name of our God; Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD / THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: CHRIST has died. Christ is risen
CHRIST will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Thank you, Jesus, alleluia.

Choosing Hymn: LOVE LIFTED ME PRINTED

Benediction: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

The Passing of the Peace: The Peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Martin's "buddy", Donald Fowler, died of a.i.d.s this week.
The funeral is at Bay Minette, Monday, 10 a.m. We thank
God that Martin could be of help to Donald and his
family for even a short time.

Monday begins the pastor's "marathon" course at Springs
hill; four nights a week for three weeks. Please call
after 10pm or before 9am in emergencies. There
will be no rap or Bible study, but we will begin again
after the 4th of July weekend.

Holy Union of Sherry + Priscilla, Saturday, 5:00pm.
here at the church. Reception follows elsewhere.

Remember "Sun in the Sun" weekend in August +
4th of July lookout at Sydney + Paula's pool.

We thank Martin + Martin for a glorious birthday
celebration for the pastor, and for all who helped, thanks!

1988
62

1987
50

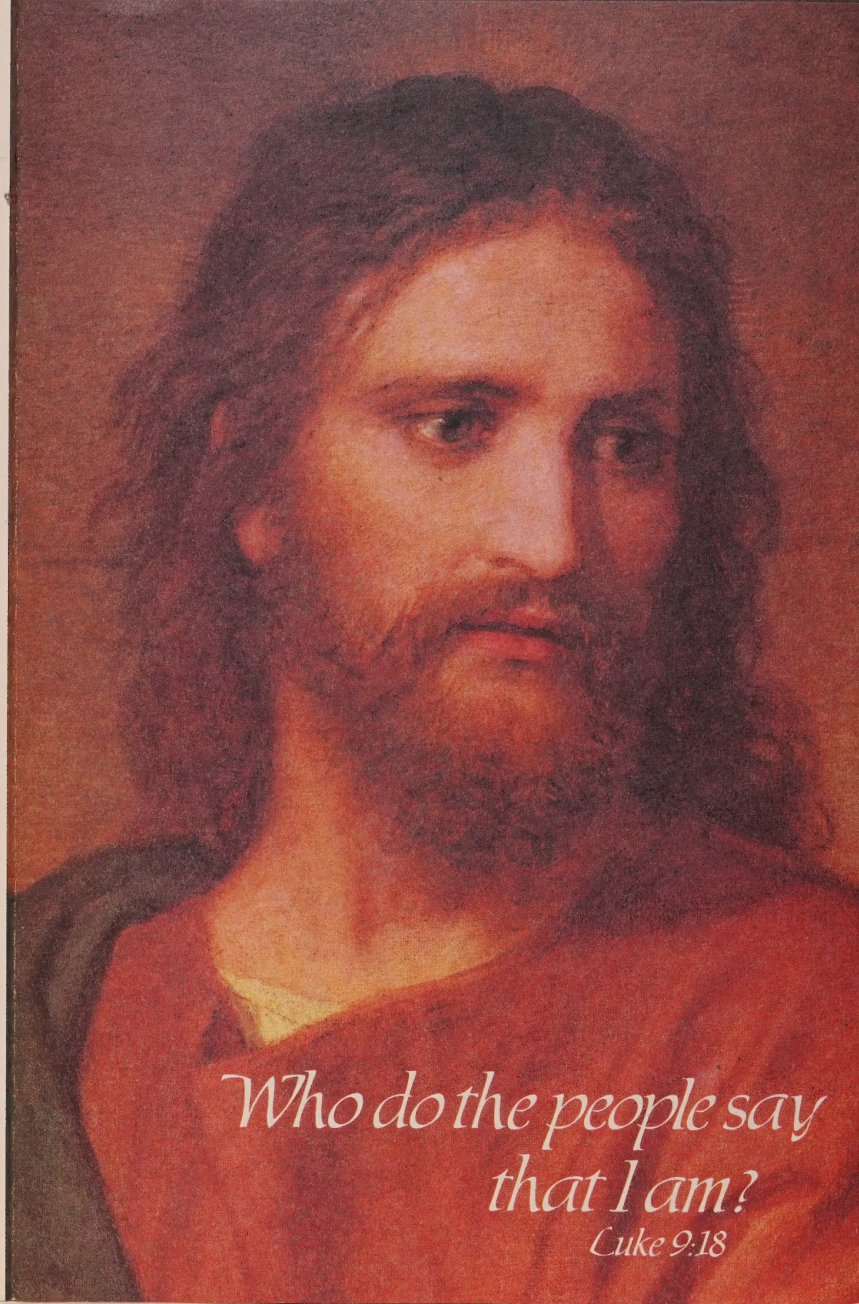
1986
15

1985
11

Cover: Detail of "Christ and the Rich Young Ruler" by Heinrich Hoffmann;
Courtesy Riverside Church, NY, NY. Photo of art by Dennis Barna, Globe
Photos, Inc.

Lectionary for Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:
Psalm 63:1-8; Zechariah 12:7-11, 13:1; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 9:18-24

6833 LHM in U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE



*Who do the people say
that I am?
Luke 9:18*

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
 8th Sunday After Pentecost June 22, 1986

SINGSPIRATION:

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING OF VISITORS

CALL TO WORSHIP; L: Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

P: I say to God, "You are my God. Apart from you I have no good."

L: How wondrously has God made me cherish to holy ones who are in God's land.

P: They multiply their sorrow who seek after other Gods, I will not pour out blood libations to them, nor will I take their names upon my lips.

L: O God, my allotted portion and my cup, you hold me fast.

P: For me, the measuring lines have fallen on pleasant sites; fir to me indeed is my inheritance.

L: I bless God who counsels me, even in the night my heart exhorts me.

P: I set God ever before me; with God at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

L: Therefore, my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,

P: My body, too, abides in confidence.

OPENING HYMN: How Firm a Foundation M315

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: I Kings 19: 14-21
 Galatians 4:31-5:1, 13-18
 Luke 9: 51-62

SERMON: FREEDOM -- FOR WHAT? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee M259

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 Offertory Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN: Sweet Hour of Prayer M302
 (In V1, please change "Father" to "Maker")

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we who call ourselves Christians confess that we sometimes betray that name. We connive, swagger, hate, abuse and lie -- and do it to our own glory. We keep busy with being busy. We settle for the status quo. We don't like to be disturbed by the holy mysteries that keep tumbling across the hours and days. We let our souls fall asleep. Open us to the holy creation all around us. Let your Word be in us, living

and full of grace and filled with healing. Send your Comforter the Holy Spirit to assail our complacencies and awaken us to your will. Our souls praise you for your Love endlessly persuading us out of our darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
 L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Christ has freed us, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: We've A Story to Tell To the Nations M501

BENEDICTION L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
 And also with you.

* * * * *
 THANK YOU'S GO TO THE CLEANUP COMMITTEE FOR CLEANING ST. PETER'S
 THIS WEEK: Dean, Martin, Carol, John, Harold and Shirley.

MORE THANK YOU'S: To Carol and Marty and Shirley for getting the newsletter out on time to announce the picnic!

RAP: Tuesday evening. Please stay for the coffee hour, and for a quick discussion of where the rap will be and why.

AIDS VIGIL - At Bienville Square Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bring a candle and your voice.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SUNDAY - 7:00 pm, next Sunday.

Check the newsletter for Gay Pride activities.

Congratulations to Sherry and Priscilla on their Holy Union, and many, many blessings for the future.

Thou dost show me
the path of life.
Psalm 16:11

Cover: Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, Washington. Photo by Harold Sund, ImageBank.

Lectionary for Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:
Psalm 16; 1 Kings 19:14-21; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142

7TH IN PENTECOST HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL 6/29/86

SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS-GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Sing joyfully to God, all people on earth;
shout the glory of God's name, proclaim
praise to our God.

P: Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds, for your great
strength your enemies bow before you.

L: Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing to praise
to your name."

P: Come and see the works of God; the deeds of God among all the
people.

L: God has changed the sea into dry land; through the river they
pass on foot: Therefore, let us rejoice in God.

P: God rules by power forever, ever watchful of the nations; the
rebellious may not exalt themselves.

L: "I will bring holocausts to your house; to you I will fulfill the
vows which my lips uttered and my words promised in my
distress.

P: Holocausts of fatlings I will offer you, with burnt offerings of
rams I will sacrifice oxen and goats."

L: When I appealed to God in words, praise was on the tip of my
tongue.

P: God has heard and harkened to the sound of my prayer.

OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress is Our God Printed

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 66:10-16

Galatians 6:11-18

Luke 10:1-20

SERMON: Saved from the Fire Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Once to Every Soul and Nation Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Lead on, O Cloud of Yahweh Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we are tangled in our usual and
ancient knots; the strings and snarls of the world, the bodily delights,
and the world. We become anxious over things that do not matter.
We love the fats and honeys, the cushions for both body and mind.

We are ~~Woe~~ and often won by the comfortable lie. We gain the whole
world and lose our souls. Too often, despite your love, we are
troubled, terrored and torn. Come gracious One. Cut our webs, but
tie us fast to you that we may be shaken out of our vanity, our confusion
and our fear, and learn to walk the land in power and true pride.
Through Jesus Christ, by whose name we praise and adore thee and
every day seek and trust thee, and through whom we pray, "Our
God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will
be done on heaven as it is on earth. Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do
not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the
power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELULIA: Alleluia, Thank you, Jesus, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: Forward Through the Ages

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.

P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

We thank everyone who helped with the cookout yesterday, We counted
33 people who came to celebrate Gay Pride Day with us.
Happy birthday, Ken, on July 5th.

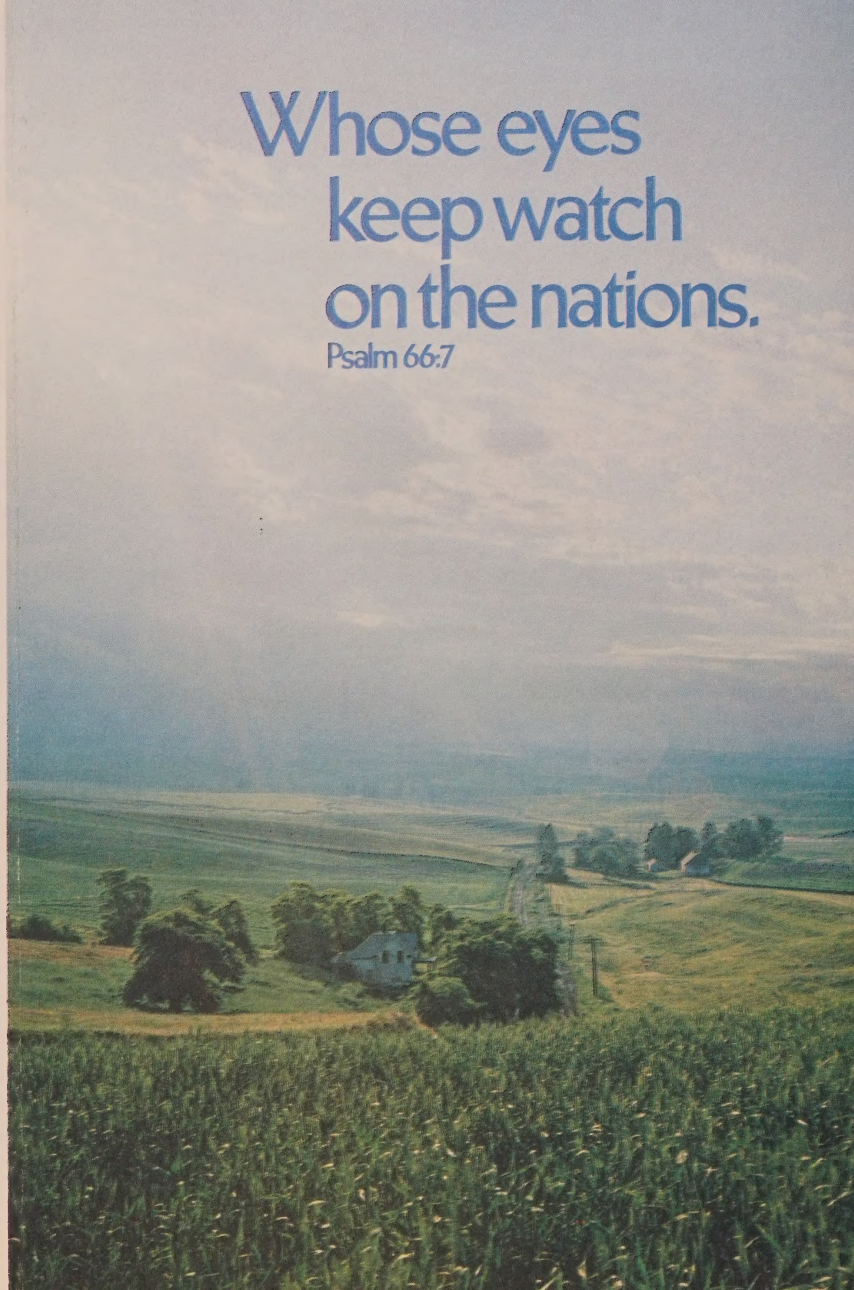
Tuesday, RaP, at Martin and Marty's, 8:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Joe T. and Carol D. who have been appointed to
the Board to serve out the terms of Ron and Mike. Joe is our new
Clerk and Carol will have responsibility for the newsletter.

We wish you all a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is Thursday, July 10th. Please have
your materials to us by then.

Whose eyes
keep watch
on the nations.
Psalm 66:7



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragana, Pastor (205) 476-9142
8th Sunday After Pentecost July 6, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Listen, O Rulers and understand; learn
O judges of the ends of the earth.

P: Give ear, you that rule over multitudes and boast of many nations.

L: For your dominion was given to you from God and your
sovereignty from the Most High.

P: God will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

L: For the God of all will not stand in awe of any one, nor show
deference to greatness.

P: Because God has made Godself both small and great, and takes
thought for all alike.

L: To the monarchs then, God's words are directed; they may learn
wisdom and not transgress.

P: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, easily discerned by those who
love God.

L: Wisdom is revealed to those who desire it, seeks those worthy,
and graciously appears in their paths.

P: The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruc-
tion and the desire for instruction is love;

Tog: Love of wisdom is the keeping of God's law and giving heed to
them is assurance of immortality.

OPENING HYMN: God of Grace and God of Glory L-415
(Vss. 1-3, 5)

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 30: 11-19

Ephesians 6: 10-12

Luke 10:25-37

SERMON: The Victory of Justice over Injustice Rev. Ragana

HYMN: O Zion, Haste Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: This Is My Song Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, you see us as we are; we are a
people both for and against you, a people caring for and yet indifferent
to our neighbor's need. We confess our part in the world's rage.

We admit our part in humanity's sorrow. We know well our part
in a thousand unnecessary cruelties, small and large. For these
acts and for the malice in us, we beseech your forgiveness. Awak-
en us, indwell in us, encompass us. Shake out our drowsy souls
for praise, strengthen our hearts for love, open our minds for
truth and turn us from our parodies to see our true live in thee,
and in a warm care for all the neighborhoods of the world. In
the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, "Our God in heaven, holy
is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive
us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring
us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power,
the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Christ has saved us, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: Lift Every Voice and Sing Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

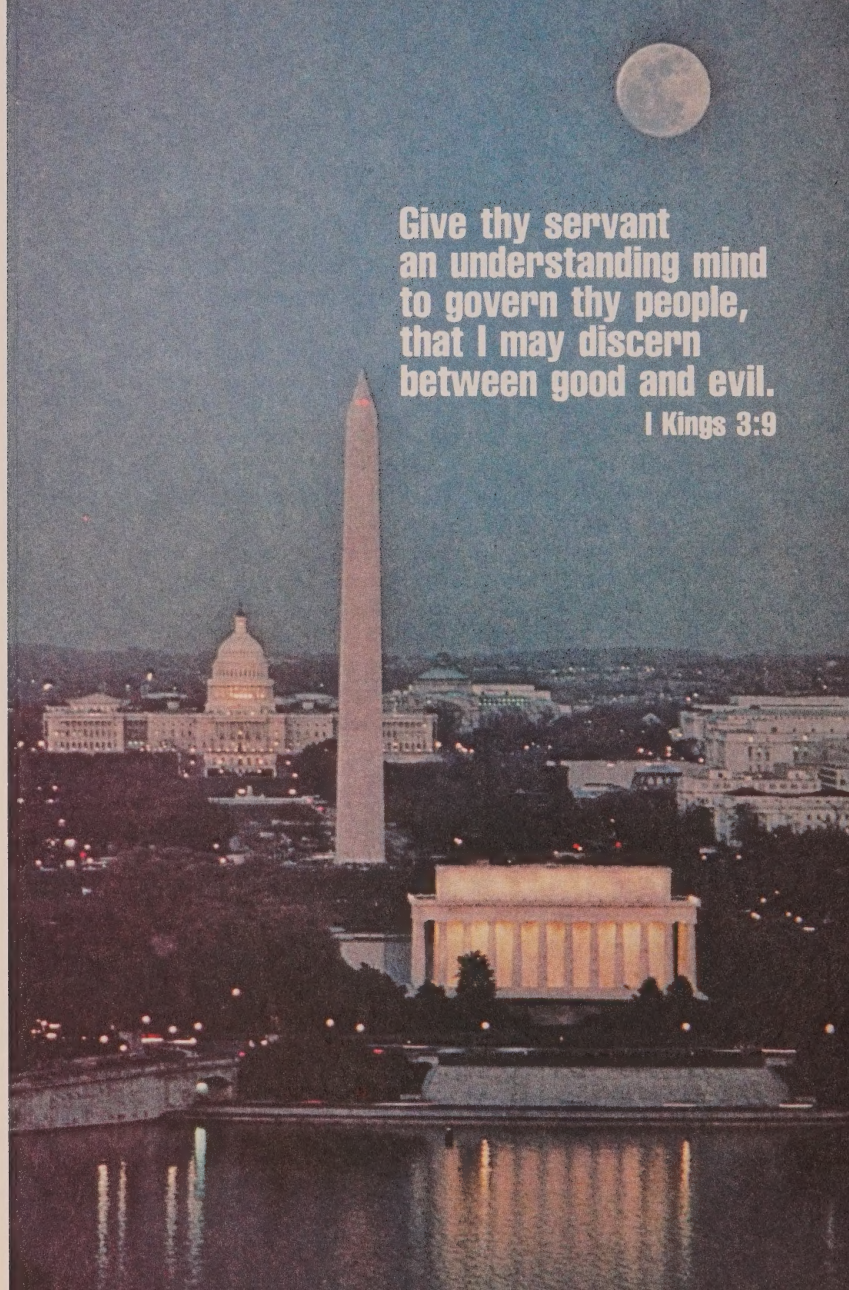
PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

RAP BEGINS TUESDAY: Terry Cline will be visiting with us at rap.
He is an author writing a book on AIDS and would like to be with us to
get to know gay people better. TOPIC: The Supreme Court Decision.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study: The fall of Judah. Bring your Bible and
lets look at the question of theodicy (when bad things happen to good
people/How can a good God allow evil?)

Newsletter deadline is Wednesday, July 10th. The pastor will be
working this weekend at Knollwood and the newsletter will be typed
then. If you have something for inclusion, Let's get it in.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL JULY PEOPLE.



**Give thy servant
an understanding mind
to govern thy people,
that I may discern
between good and evil.**

I Kings 3:9

Cover Photo: Photri/The Marilyn Gartman Agency

**Lectionary for Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Psalm 119:129-136; I Kings
3:5-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52**

7845 LITURGY IN U.S.A.
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BULLETIN SERVICE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
9th Sunday in Pentecost July 13, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

P: Those who walk blamelessly and do justice; who think the
truth in their hearts and do not slander with their
tongue.

L: Those who do not harm other people, or take up reproach
against a neighbor.

P: Those by whom the reprobate is despised, while honoring
those who fear God.

L: Those who, though it be to their loss, do not change their
pledged word; who do not lend money at usury, and accept
no bribes against the innocent.

P: Those who do these things shall never be disturbed.

HYMN: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us M337

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Genesis 18: 1-15
Colossians 1:21-29
Luke 10: 38-42

SERMON: Anything Is Possible Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Living for Jesus Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go M318

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, there is something about our own
failure that makes us sad, and we come to you hoping that you
can teach us how to make it better. We are contrite and eager
to mend our ways, but sometimes we are stubborn and proud, and
find it hard to change. Forgive us for the times when we have
been bullies and pushed to be first in line; for the times when
we have been angry without real cause, and stupid when we knew
better. Forgive us for cowardice and hesitation when you called
us to bravery and strength; for every time and place when we did
not love the goodness in people, nor praise the glory of God.
Teach us to be holy saints -- and yes, even holy heretics. Be
strength in us that our lives might be shaped for healing.

Work in us that we may be warmth for others, bringers of joy,
and always centers of caring. In the name of Jesus, who taught
us to pray, saying..."Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us
to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power,
the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen."

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the
highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/BLESSING OF THE CUP

MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Thank You, Jesus, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: Make Me A Blessing Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

* * * * *

TUESDAY: Rap: Topic - "Getting Your Needs Met" (Positive
ways to be your own best friend.) 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. The Babylonian Captivity.

New newsletters are out and you need to pick one up right
after service.

Rev. Ragona begins a 6 day vacation on Friday -- and her son
Jonathan is expected from Rhode Island. He looks forward to
meeting all of you. We will have some kind of activity at the
house while he's here, but we don't know what yet.

Please give Joe T. your birthdate and your anniversary date
(if you are coupled). Also, check with him, if you are not
a member, to make sure he has a mailing address for you. Mem-
bers should have membership forms on file. If you have moved
please keep your address current with Joe.

Cover: "Christ in the House of Mary and Martha" by Jan Vermeer. National Gallery of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Lectionary for Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:
Psalm 15; Genesis 18:1-14; Colossians 1:21-29; Luke 10:38-42

7833

CHRISTIAN
CATHOLIC BULLETIN SERVICE



Art Reference Bureau

Mary... listened
to his teaching.

Luke 10:39

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE q
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
10th Sunday After Pentecost July 20, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will give thanks to you, O God, with all
my heart, for you have heard the words
of my mouth.

P: I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your truth;

L: You have made great above all things your name and your promise.

P: When I called you answered me; you built up strength within me.

L: Thou I walk amid distress, you preserve me.

P: Against the anger of my enemies you raise your hand, your power-
ful hand saves me.

L: God will complete what has been done for me; your kindness, O
God endures forever.

P: O God, forsake not the work of your hands.

OPENING HYMN: Our God has Made This World Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:20-33
Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 11:1-13

SERMON: Some Thoughts On Prayer Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire (Vs.1-3,6) M303

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Need Thee Every Hour M232

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we bring our burdens to thee,
because we need your grace; for we do sin and do evil in your sight.
We lie to ourselves about ourselves, we wear masks and do not trust
in love. We are unfaithful to the goodness in others. We are miserly
with hope. We fret over illusions and refuse the realities that give
us life. Forgive us. Lift us. Redeem us and teach us that true
delight comes to us when we put our trust in you, who builds up the
waste places and turns the ashes of our lives into garlands of joy.
Through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in

heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power,
the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace: Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God, hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: He Keeps Me Singing Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you
And also with you.

MONDAY: Meeting of MGLCC meets at Esquire; election of officers
for the next year. We need a representative from the church and
as many people as possible to be there. Shirley is running for chair
(female). Your vote counts. (We also have a secret male candidate.)

TUESDAY - RAP: Can you be happy in your closet?

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study - "The Remnant Returns"

FUN IN THE SUN - Pick up registration forms at coffee hour.
See Joe if you can house a guest, also for committee assignments.

DISTRICT REQUEST: We have been requested by District to take an
offering for Columbia, S. C. to help them pay back tithes. Rev. Gil
Lincoln (whom some of you have met) has volunteered to go to
Columbia (for no salary) as pastor and try to bring them into UFMCC
compliance. He has his work cut out for him; they owe \$7000 in back
tithes (6 years of nonpayment). Let's try to help a little. We will
take this offering next Sunday, so that we can send the check with our
tithes. Please help our sister church. If we all pledge a dollar or
two toward this we can (in the District) raise at least \$1,000 of their
back total. Thanks.

PARENTS OF GAYS will be presenting a program here, August 30th.
Ask your parents to attend this, if possible.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Ala. 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

10th Sunday After Pentecost

July 27, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all who dwell in the world.

P: You of lowly birth or high degree, rich and poor alike, listen.

L: My mouth shall speak wisdom, prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.

P: My ear is intent upon a proverb; I will set forth my riddle to the music of the harp.

L: Why should I fear in evil days when the wicked ensnare me about?

P: They trust in their wealth; the abundance of their riches is their boast.

L: Yet in no way can we redeem ourselves or pay our own ransom to God; too high is the price, we would never have enough to remain alive and not see destruction.

P: For we see that the wise die and likewise the senseless and stupid pass away, leaving to others their wealth.

L: Fear not when some grow rich, when the wealth of their houses becomes great, for when they die they will take none of it with them.

P: For we, in spite of our splendor, if we have not prudence, resemble the beasts that perish, and our wealth shall not follow us.

OPENING HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Eccl. 1: 2, 2:18 26

Collosians 3:1-11

Luke 12: 13-21

SERMON: Depending on God's Providence

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: God Will Take Care of You

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My Lord

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, you waken us from our soul's sleep and give us days enormous in light, new in hope and brimming

with compassion. You have found us hungry for bread we cannot earn and fed us mercy and toughened our soul with love. You have taught us that our other gods cannot save us: when we worship the image in little mirrors, kneel beside our automobiles, pray to the vitamin tablet, the tranquilizer and the local bank, you remind us that we cannot eat cake while others lack daily bread. You have heard our fear and felt the breath of death and held us in your might and killed the captor. Break our idols and turn us again to you, for who can stand except you break a way for us to go, and who can see except you light a fire in the world's dark night. Save us, through Jesus Christ the Lord, who taught us to pray, saying: Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your heart.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: All Are One in Christ

Printed

BENEDICTION:

L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

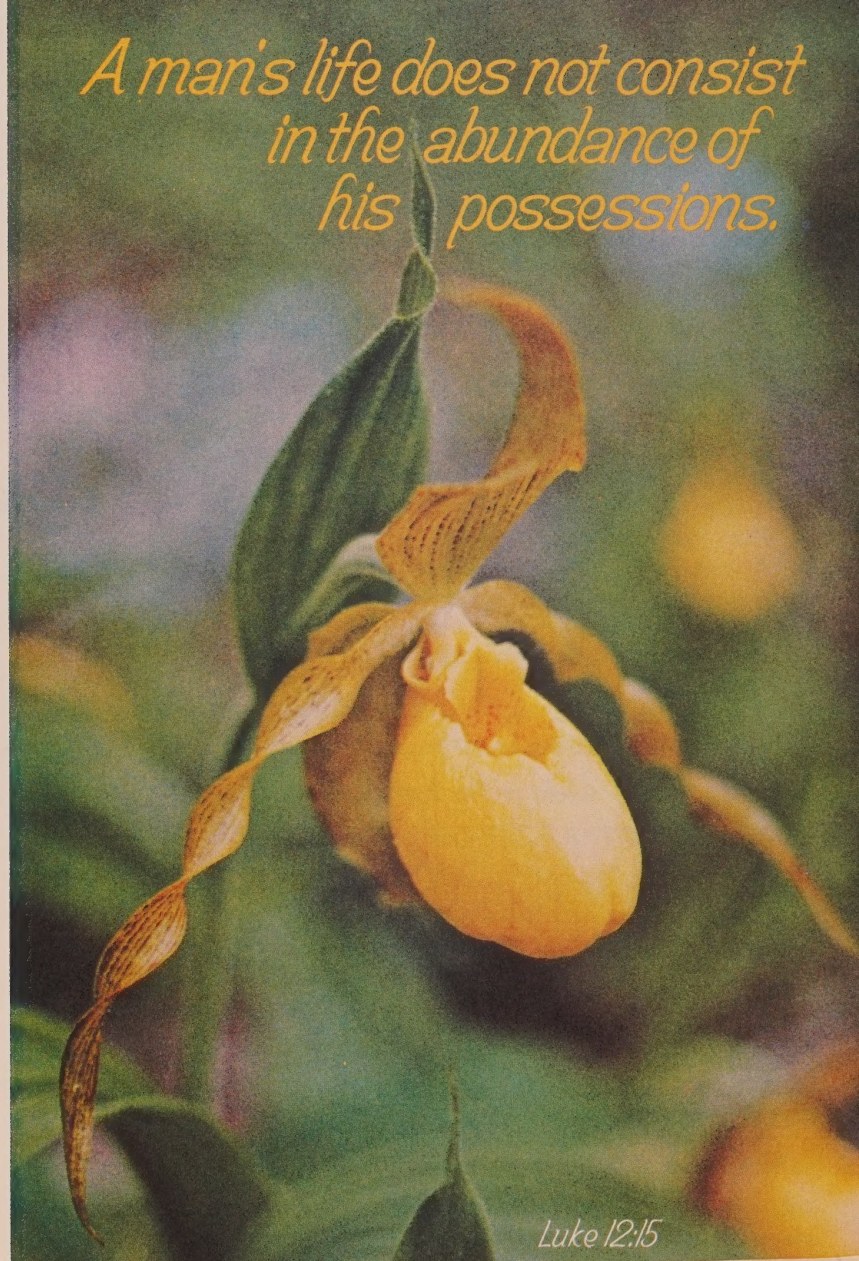
+ + + + +
Happy birthday to Tom. (Sorry we omitted it from the bulletin last week.)

MONDAY: MGLCC Executive Committee meeting, 8 p.m. at Shirley's.

TUESDAY: Rap. Topic "Guilt" -- How to deal with it constructively and without getting caught in the trap it sets.

WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY: The Psalms and Wisdom Literature.
See Joe T. next Sunday, if you are chairing a committee. Register

*A man's life does not consist
in the abundance of
his possessions.*



4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

August 3, 1986

12th Sunday after Pentecost

SINGSPIRATION

GREETING, WELCOME OF VISITORS, ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Let all on earth revere God; let all who dwell on earth stand in awe of God.

P: For God spoke and the world was made; God commanded and the earth stood forth.

L: God brings to naught the plans of the nations and foils the designs of peoples.

P: But the Plan of God stands forever, the designs of God's heart through all generations.

L: From heaven God looks down and sees all humanity; God who fashioned the heart of each, knows all their works.

P: A ruler is not delivered by a mighty army, nor is a warrior delivered by great strength;

L: Useless is the horse for safety; it cannot provide escape. But see, the eye of God is upon those who are in awe of God;

P: Upon those who hope for God's kindness to deliver them from death and preserve them from want.

L: We wait for God who is our help and our shield; in God our hearts rejoice and in whose holy name we trust.

P: May your kindness, O God, be upon those who have put our hope in you.

OPENING HYMN: How Great Thou Art

L532

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

Luke 12: 32-48

SERMON:

HYMN: Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide

R17

(Please change "he" and "his" to "God" and "God's.")

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

Gerry Kelly

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Will Serve Thee

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, how do we appear to you? Do we seem stiff and awkward, contrary and cruel? Sometimes we are more careful with things than we are with people. We have difficulty with

both giving and receiving. We are quick with anger and slow with forgiveness, in love with our fears and in fear of our loves; busy with falsehood, idle with truth. Still you are imponderably gracious to us and your mercy erases our surface and deepens us down into the places of your glory. We want you with us, around us, before us. Help us, fulfill us, awaken, calm and refresh us. Make our days and nights make sense, come alive and shout joy, through Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen."

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Higher Ground

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
It's a girl! Rev. Ragona's son David and Beverly's baby was born at 3:35 a. m. Saturday, 8 lbs. 15 oz., and she is beautiful. We thank God that mother and baby (and Daddy) are doing well.

TUESDAY, Rap: Topic: Loneliness. 8:00 p. m.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. The Intertestamentary Period of the Maccabees and Antiochus -- little known, but very important.

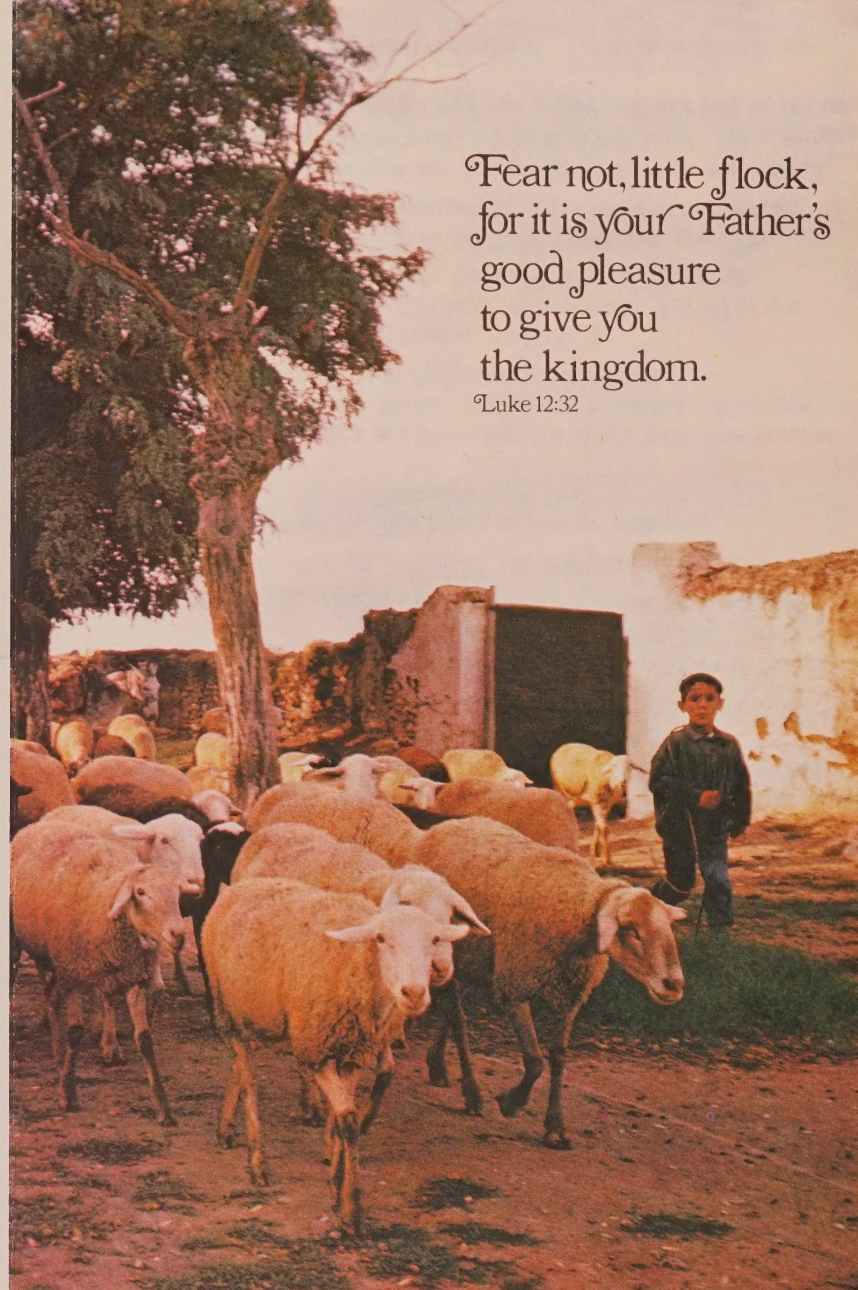
FRIDAY: Gay AA group will have its first meeting at the UU's, depending on their Board's permission. Otherwise at our house.

See Joe T. about registrations for Fun in the Sun. Also committed chairs report to him at coffee hour. F in S is one week from Friday. No August birthdays? Or do we just not know? Please tell us if you have a birthday this month.

We need a church representative to the Mobile Aids Fund. Is anyone willing to serve?

Fear not, little flock,
for it is your Father's
good pleasure
to give you
the kingdom.

☞ Luke 12:32



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 10, 1986

SINGSPARATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God arises in the place of judgment and
passes sentence on the judges:

P: "How long will you judge unjustly and favor the cause of the
wicked?"

L: Defend the lowly and the defenseless; render justice to the afflicted
and the destitute.

P: Rescue the lowly and the poor; from the hand of the wicked
deliver them.

L: They know not, neither do they understand; they go about in
darkness; all the foundations of earth are shaken.

P: I said, "You are gods, all of you the children of the Most High;
yet you shall die like any person and fall like any ruler."

L: Rise, O God; judge the earth, for yours are all the nations.

OPENING HYMN: From All that Dwell Below the Skies Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 38:2-13

Hebrews 12:1-6

Luke 12:49-56

SERMON: "A Cure for the Pitty-Poos" Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING FOR MCC COLUMBIA, S. Carolina

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are all part of it: The world's
anger, the private grievances, the pride that trips us and we fall, the
fear that gnaws away our trust. We are tired with labor that does
not satisfy, with being possessed by our possessions, with countless
defeats of our own making. Awaken us from our sleep; center us on
the first things, clear away our confusion. Prod us and prepare us
for the forgiveness for which we ask, and then let us rejoice that in
you the weak are made strong, the foolish are made wise, and the

and the broken mended. Return us home to you with praise in our
hearts, because somewhere and somehow in all our tangles, you
find us and name us, and make us yours forever. In the name of
Jesus, who taught us to pray saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is
your name: Your dominion come, your will be done, on earth as
it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us
our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us
to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the
reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen."

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: ^{We} lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Power in the Blood Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
RAP: Tuesday, 8 p.m. Topic: "Fantasy: Constructive or Destructive?"

BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday, 8 p.m. Hellenization and After: The
Coming of Alexander and Caesar; the defeat of Judaism.

FRIDAY: Fun in the Sun Weekend begins. You must pay your \$5.00
or you can't play with us. Joe Tate needs to see all committee chairs
and committee chairs need to get with their committees.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: We will have two services next Sunday -- One at
8:00 a.m. at Martin and Marty's ("Shall we gather at the river?")
and one at 7:00 p.m. as usual. Invite people who have not worshipped
with us before to be part of this service, they'll enjoy it.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: Linda, 4th; Teddy, 9th; Dean, 13th; and
Bob H. the 24th, Harold the 7th. Happy Birthday, everyone.

FRIDAY: In addition to our Fun in the Sun weekend, there is also
a gay AA meeting at 8:00 p.m.



**since we are surrounded by
so great a cloud of witnesses**

Hebrews 12:1

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Ala. 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: As the hart longs for running waters, so
my soul longs for you, O God.

P: My soul is athirst for God, the living God. When shall I go and
behold the face of God.

L: I recall the times when I went with the throng and led them in the
procession to the house of God.

P: I led them with loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, leading the
multitude keeping festival.

L: Why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why do you sigh within
me.

P: Hope in God! For I shall be thanking God in the presence of my
savior and my God.

OPENING HYMN: O, How Glorious

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

I John 4:1-21

Luke 18:31-35

SERMON: Love, Justice, and Concern

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Fill My Cup

R114

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN: Blest Be the Tie that Binds

M416

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we break silence to bring before
you our prayers, asking you to awaken our hearts. We cry peace,
where there is no peace; we pray for the hungry but do not feed them;
for the naked but do not clothe them, for prisoners, but do not set
them free. We ask for justice when we have refused it. Though the
words come hard, we pray that our enemies personal and political
receive overwhelmingly thy love and care, our love and care. Find
in our prayers more than the hypocrisies that hem them in. Pity us
our pride and our lack of concern and hold us patiently, until we know
in our hearts that we are thine forever. In the name of Jesus who
taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name:

your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we
forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but
deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Printed

BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE The peace of God be with you.

New Members

And also with you.

+ Harold, James, Sherry, Priscilla, William +

Thanks to all of you for making "Fun in the Sun" fun and an outreach
to churches even more isolated from MCC than we are. Please
collect pots, etc. in the Fellowship Hall.

Today we baptized William and Sherry, and this evening we receive
5 people into membership. This brings our active membership to
24. God is growing us into a church and growing us as people and
we are thankful.

TUESDAY: Rap, topic: "What ARE you wearing?" What do our
uniforms signify?

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. Beginning this week, we change to an
Introduction to the New Testament. Everyone is welcome. Come and
find out some of the interesting things you did not know about the
Bible.

FRIDAY: AA at the UUs.

Remember the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays introductory
meeting on Saturday, August 30th, with the film, "Welcome Home,
Bobby." All are invited, please bring your parents and straight
friends.

...and every
one that
loveth
is born
of God

1 JOHN 4:7

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476 -9142
16th Sunday After Pentecost August 24, 1986

SINGSPARATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Rise, O God, lift up your hand! Forget not
the afflicted!

P: Why should the wicked despise God, saying in their hearts, "God
will not avenge it"?

L: You do see, for you behold misery and sorrow, taking them in your
hands.

P: On you the unfortunate depend; you are the help of the orphaned.

L: Therefore, break the strength of the wicked and the evildoer;
punish their wickedness, let them not continue.

P: God rules forever; the nations have perished out of God's land.

L: Hear the desire of the afflicted, O God, strengthen their hearts.

P: Pay heed to the orphaned and the oppressed; that those who rule
the earth will frighten them no more.

OPENING HYMN: Sing Praise To God Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 9: 7 -10, 12
Philemon 1-20
Luke 14: 25-33

SERMON: Disciple or Camp-follower? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Living for Jesus Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Wonderful Words of Life Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God who rules the world, because your
love, mercy and tenderness surrounds us, we see how short we fall
from the ideal and we are sorry for our sins. We become aware of
negligence, bad beginnings and poor endings. We see how little we
truly desire to serve and praise you. We have good words and lazy
deeds; we turn from your magnificent love to loves which amount to
nothing and become children playing with our own and others' lives.
O God, take our little repentance and make it great. Remind us that
every day we may begin afresh, that love may always abound and

that new possibilities are always present. Remind us to be grateful
for hope, for each new gaze at Thee, and for this and every day in
which we can declare that our lives are not our own but are for thee
forever and ever. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,
saying, Our God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil; for
yours is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and forever, Amen

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

TUESDAY, RAP: Topic, "The Hankie Code: The Kink and I."

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. "Mark: The Root of the Gospel."

FRIDAY: AA at the UU.

SATURDAY: Due to circumstances beyond our control, Parents and
Friends of Lesbians and Gays has been postponed until September.
Please watch for the new date.

Sunday, September 7th will be Aids Awareness Sunday, in conjunction
with the nationwide Aids Prayer Vigil being observed by MCCs all
over the world. Please sign up for a time in the 50 hours when you
will be available for one hour of prayer and invite others to your home
for that hour of prayer. Thanks.

There are hymn questionnaires available at the coffee hour. Please
take one and fill it out. We want to make sure that we are singing
some of the songs you like!

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
17th Sunday After Pentecost August 31, 1986
SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Create a clean heart within me, o God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me away from your presence, nor take your
holy spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain a
willing spirit within me.

P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners
shall return to you.

L: Absolve me from guilt, O God, and my tongue shall revel
in your justice.

P: O God, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your
praise.

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 32:7-14
I Timothy 1: 12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Gracious God, you who have called us to be your church, the community of grace, the household of faith: we confess that we have been indifferent and unprofitable servants. Called to be passionate lovers of humanity, we have been lukewarm; called to celebrations of mercy, we have neither sacrificed nor suffered. We follow always the safe path, the respectable street, the approved way -- fearful that if we strike out on our own we will encounter your mystery, your danger, and your cross. O God, save us from the misery of the neutral way and strengthen us to lose ourselves in the world's anguish. Help us to go without fear, and make us one with your prophets, apostles, martyrs and saints -- for it is only when we spend ourselves that we truly receive.

In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP.

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+

TUESDAY: Rap series: Topic "Autonomy" (maintaining your own individuality in a relationship.)

WEDNESDAY: Bible study, the passion narrative as Passover Haggadah in Mark. Come and study with us and enjoy getting to know more about your Bible.

SATURDAY: Joe Tate's Birthday party. Please see Shirley and Ron for directions.

PRAYER VIGIL: Please sign up with Joe Tate for hours you wish to hold prayer vigil at your house (or ours, if you can't have people at your home.) Please cover as many of the 50 hours as possible.

FRIDAY: 8 p.m. AA at the UUs.

October will be here before we know it; do you have goals and dreams for the church for the next year? If so, please begin to write down some ideas for our next year, and help us continue to grow by setting goals.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
1st Sunday in Dominiontide September 7, 1986

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME-GREETING OF VISITORS-ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP : L: Praise, you servants of God, praise
the name of our God.

P: Blessed be the name of God, now and forever.

L: From the rising to the setting of the sun, the name of our God
is to be praised.

P: God is high above all nations, above the heavens is God's glory.

L: Who is like our God, enthroned on high, and who can look down
on the heavens and earth below?

P: God raises up the lowly from the dust, from the dunghill God
lifts up the poor and seats them with princes.

L: Praise, you servants of our God.

P: Praise the name of our God.

OPENING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Amos 8: 4-8
I Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16: 1-13

SERMON: What Shall We Do With the Poor? Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Make Me A Blessing Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My Lord Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Gracious God, we know our sins; some
we can see and some we cannot see, and some we do not want to see.
Each of us have our own sins, and yet we shall in all the world's
sin. Whichever way we turn, we find that certain sins besiege and
imprison us. We feel their weight and cannot run free from them.
Often these are the sins that deaden us even before death, and these
sins are the ones that we need your special help with to make us
whole again. Deliver us from our separate darknesses, make us
truly penitent in our hearts, give us the gospel's good tidings of your
peace. Protect us from all times that destroy and deceive. Be for
us in our goodness and shield us from our evil. Keep us from what-
ever is shallow and unholy and move us to seek the deep being of

yourself. Give us grace to show the justice and mercy to all that
would ask for ourselves. Make fruitful our prayers, in the name of
Jesus, for for our sakes were suffering and sin and hold's back death
for our salvation, and who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in
heaven, holy is your name, your dominion come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power,
the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Christ for the World We Sing PRINTED

BENEDICTION L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + = + + +

Our sympathy goes out to William, whose grandmother died last
night.

TUESDAY: School begins for the pastor. There IS NO RAP TONIGHT
SEE THURSDAY

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. Holy Week as Passover Haggadah, part
II. Come and enjoy studying the Bible with us. We promise that
it won't be like Sunday School!

THURSDAY: RAP TOPIC: When you are sexually attracted to a
friend -- What do you do?

FRIDAY: Planning Meeting for goals for the next year. ANYONE
is welcome who would like to help us plan what we will take to
Conference as our next year's goals. Please bring a covered dish
and meet at our house at 7:30.

Happy Birthday to Joe Tate, who is now 7, in glorious style!



*I will sing to my God
all my life.*

Psalms 146:2

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
2nd Sunday in Dominiontide September 14, 1986
SINGSPIRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Come, let us sing joyfully to our God;
Let us praise the Rock of our salvation.
P: Greet God with thanksgiving, joyfully sing psalms of praise.
L: For our God is a great God, and the ruler above all the gods.
P: In God's hands are the depths of the earth; the tops of the mountains are God's.
L: God's is the sea, for our God created it; and the dry land, which was made by God's hand.
L: Come, let us bow in worship; let us kneel before God who made us.
P: For our God reigns over us, and we are the people God shepherds, the flock God guides.

OPENING HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah M301

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Habakkuk 1: 1-3, 2:1-14
II Timothy 1: 3-14
Luke 17: 1-10

HYMN: I Know Whom I Have Believed Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Need Thee Every Hour M232

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, attend our confession. Sin binds us like a spider spinning a web, tightening our fears, binding the wings of ope, drying out love, leaving us empty and dead. Sin is like a venom that strikes and pains. It stuns and stupifies. Come, celestial One, with the broom of your grace and sweep away the tangle, the evil, the dark. Be an antidote that in your power we may be whole again. Awaken us to hilloiness and awe that we may be aware that you are God who holds us so that we cannot fall; that is is your and and your love that rises with us in the morning and goes with us through the day -- and keeps us forever and ever. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your

will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: We've A Story to Tell to the Nations M501

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you.
P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

* * * * *
WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. The Gospel of Luke - Overturning the status quo. Come and study with us, and learn more about your Bible.

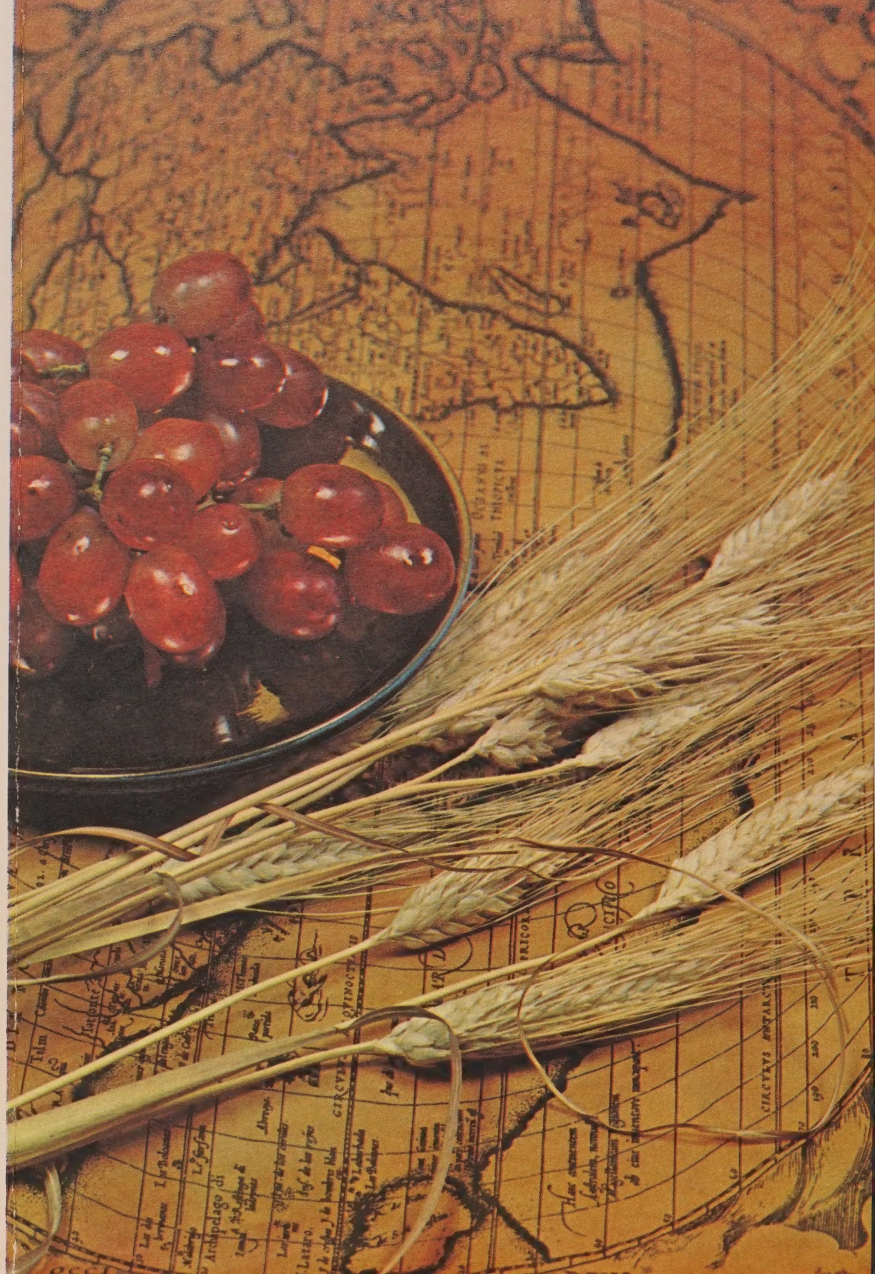
THURSDAY: RAP - Money - Who handles the finances in your relationship and why?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAROL.

We thank everyone who attended the planning meeting, and hope that you will all attend the congregational meeting in October where the plans that were formulated Friday and in the Board meeting will be shared with the congregation, and we can decide what we want to aim toward this coming year.

SUNDAY: 5:30 New Members' Class. Even if you don't think you're ready to join the church, come and find out what MCC believes and how it works. You may like it well enough to decide to join us after all. (Sneaky, aren't we?)

PLEASE REMEMBER THE DEACON'S PANTRY. We have had a number of calls for food lately, and need to replenish our stock. member, this feeds all gay people in need, but especially people with AIDS, when the need arises.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

4th Sunday in Dominiontide

September 21, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME-GREETING OF VISITORS-ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: I lift my eyes unto the hills; where does my help come from?

P: My help comes from God, the Maker of heaven and earth.

L: God will not let your foot slip -- The One who watches over you does not slumber;

P: Indeed, the One who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep:

L: God watches over you -- God is your shade at your right hand.

P: The sun will not harm you by day, nor the cold at night.

L: God will keep you from harm -- God will watch over your life;

P: God will watch over your coming and going both now and evermore.

HYMN: How Firm a Foundation

M315

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32:22-30

II Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18: 1-8

SERMON: Trusting in God's Protection

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: God Will Take Care of You

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

M248

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, give us the patience, moment by moment, to wait upon your timelessness. Deepen us down to listen for your coming among us. Give us honesty before our own needs and compassion before the needs of others. Remind us always that each day will be held in strength and given in mercy; that in thee despite the forests of pain, the ways of laughter will be found; that in thee, though perils surround us, the victory will go to love; that in you, we can rejoice now and tomorrow and even in the face of death. We bless your holy name forever and ever, in the name of Jesus, who though he was dead, yet shall he live, and who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name, your

dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil; for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

M533

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

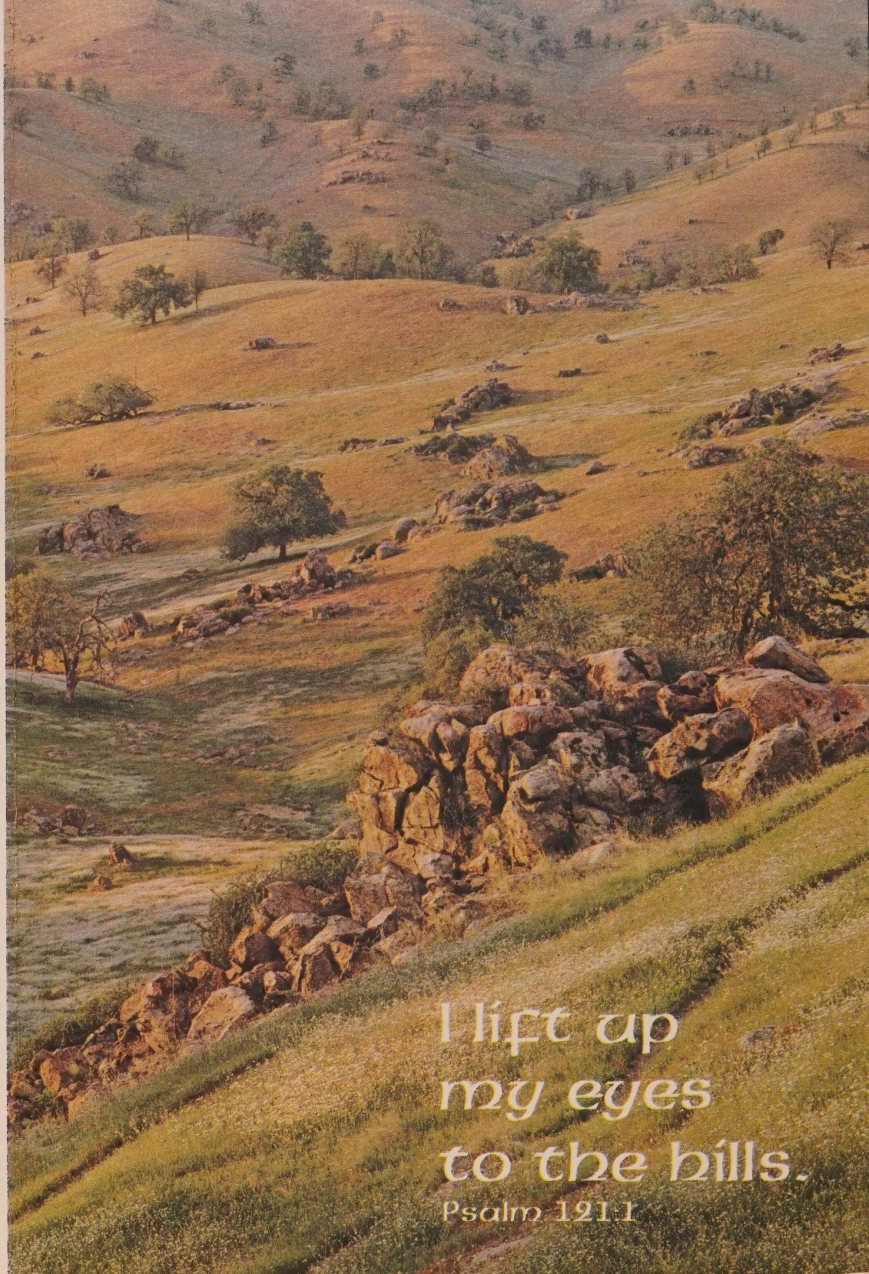
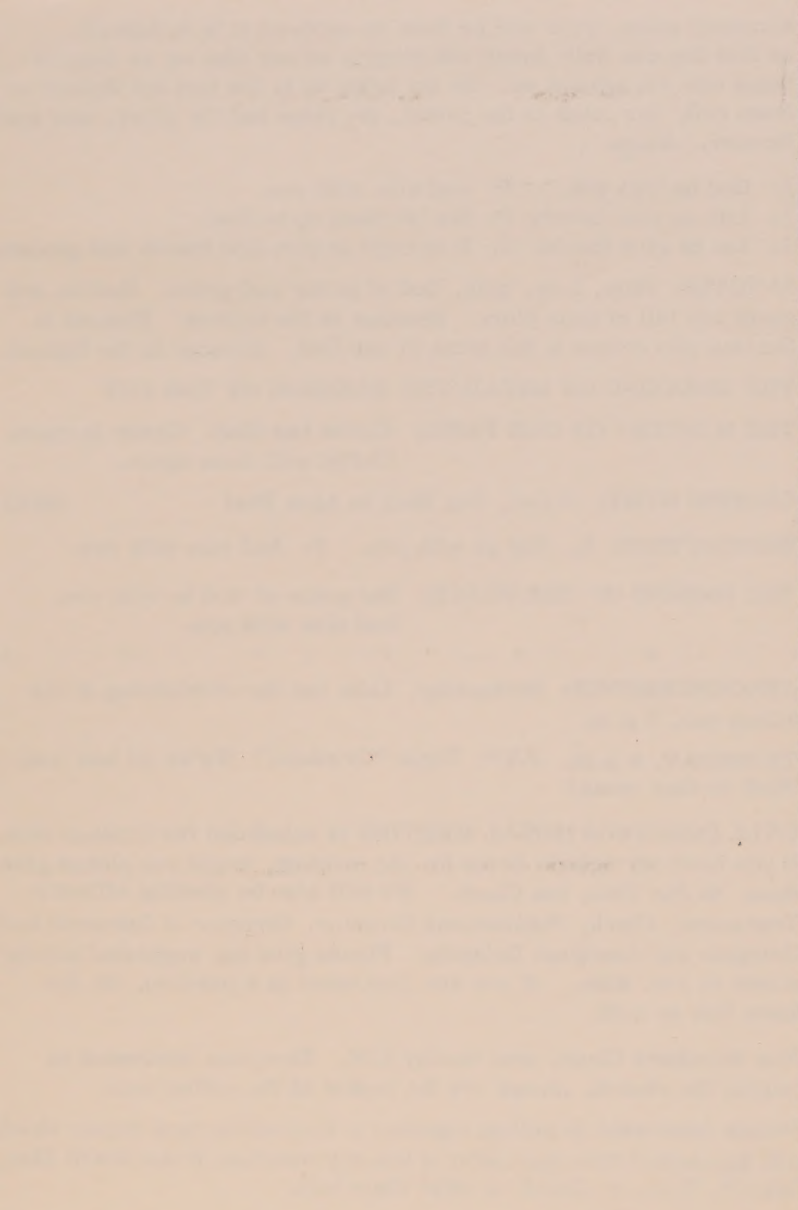
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Wednesday, Luke and the overturning of the status quo, 8 p. m.

THURSDAY, 8 p. m. RAP: Topic "Crushes!" We've all had 'em. What do they mean?

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for October 26th. If you have any agenda items for the meeting, would you please give them to Joe Tate, the Clerk. We will also be electing officers: Treasurer, Clerk, Publications Director, Director of Outreach and Delegate and Assistant Delegate. Please give any suggested nominations to Joe, also. If you are interested in a position, let Joe know that as well.

New Members Class, next Sunday 5:30. Everyone interested in joining the church, please see the pastor at the coffee hour.

People interested in pulling together a Halloween fund raiser which will be alcohol free are asked to see any member of the Board (Joe, John P, Tom, or Carol) to offer their help.



I lift up
my eyes
to the hills.
Psalm 121:1

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

September 28, 1986

4th Sunday in Dominiontide

SINGSPIRATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: I will bless God at all times and God's
praise will always be in my mouth.

P: Let my soul glory in God; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

L: Come and hear! I will teach you to stand in awe of God.

P: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile;

L: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and follow after it.

P: God has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry.

L: God confronts the evil-doer, to destroy remembrance of them
from the earth.

P: When the just cry out, God hears them, and from all their distress
rescues them.

L: God is close to the brokenhearted and those troubled in spirit are
heard.

P: Many are the troubles of the just, but God saves from all of them.
God watches over the bones of the just, not one shall be broken.

L: Vice slays the wicked, and the enemies of the just pay for their
guilt.

P: But the lives of God's servants are redeemed; none incur guilt
who take refuge in God.

OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-22

II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

SERMON: What are we using for comparison?

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Be Thou My Vision

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Pass Me Not

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, you are the Way by which we come
back to ourselves, you are the source of mercy by which we are
freed from our sins; you are the victory of love by which our failures
are redeemed. Keep us from purposelessness, and in the midst of

the whirl and fastness of our lives, let us take time for silence to
hear your voice and know your truth. Our way becomes tangled,
our boasts become foolish, our truths become soiled. But you are
the source of our cleansing. Gather us and hold us, lest we perish
in the holocaust of pride. Wound us with the wars, the ghettos,
the famines of body and soul for all the world's people, the lonely,
the ill, the burdened. Let our loneliness find its answer in You,
O God, who holds us in strength and forgives us with mercy, through
Jesus, Our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in
heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not
bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power,
the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace: Heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died, Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + + + + + + +
ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be a board meeting after service
this evening.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew. God brings the
fulfillment of prophecy to the Jews.

THURSDAY: Rap: Topic, "Helping your parents to understand you."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for the last Sunday in
October. Please come to that meeting. Let us know any agenda
items in advance. Speak with Joe, Tom, Carol, John P. or me.

*I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept
the faith.*
II Timothy 4:7



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
Reformation Sunday October 26, 1986
SINGSPARATION
WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: Give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.
P: Thus let the redeemed of God say, those whom has has redeemed from the hands of their foes
L: Those whom God has gathered from the lands, from the east and the west, from the north and the south.
P: They went astray in the desert wilderness, the way to an inhabited city they did not find.
L: Hungry and thirsty their life was wasting within them.
P: They cried to God in their distress; from their straits God delivered them.
L: They were led by a direct way to reach an inhabited city.
P: Let them give thanks to God for kindness and wondrous deeds to the children of this world
Tog: For God has satisfied the longing soul and filled the hungry soul with good things.

OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress is Our God Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-8
Galatians 3: 23-29
John 2:13-17

SERMON: This Man, Luther Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Once to Every Soul and Nation Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Breathe on me, Breath of God M180

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Most mercifus God, we confess that we are bound by our sins and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus, the Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name, and to the glory of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray, "Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin

against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.
L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN. Forward Through the Ages Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +
MONDAY: MGLCC open community meeting, 7:30 at the Goldenrod.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: This weekend at Columbia, S. Carolina.
Fri. Board of Home Missions, Sat. Plenary session. Sun: Worship.

Rev. Marge and Shirley (and others) will be away at conference this coming weekend. Harold and Joe will be leading in worship. Please come and support them and support your church.

SATURDAY, NOV.8TH. Fall kickoff. Reception to honor our new officers and just to begin our fall programming. Please invite friends. This is a potluck, and competitive cooking is in order.

Bible Study begins again November 12th, with the Gospel of John. 8 p.m.

RAP begins again on November 13th, Thursday, with the first of the classic series --"Coming Out." Invite new people to participate.

There will be no rap or Bible study 10/29-30 or 11/5=6. The Pastor will be on vacation and or traveling to/from conferen

Tonight the church honors those who were the founders of the Protestant movement and their devotion and dedication.



1968-1986

Perhaps the mission of MCC can best be summarized in the words of Elder Emeritus John Hose: "Never losing sight of Jesus' remarkable invitation to all humankind, we have proceeded with dignity, perseverance and veracity to proclaim 'freedom and justice for ALL' by the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit & Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
November 2, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME/GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

P: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

L: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

P: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

ALL: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

OPENING HYMN: Bread of Life. . . . M 387

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Exodus 32:7-14
I Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15: 1-10

SERMON: Our Shepherd Harold

HYMN: Blest Be The Tie M 416

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we gather to Thy praise and pray that we may be worthy, and that we may be ready, and that we may receive Thee. Let fall upon us such forgiveness as shames us from our sin. Shape in our bodies the very ache of faith. And brim our hearts to the wild reaches of joy. Place against us now and always Thy closeness. Yet, in the moment of each breath, gather us in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God is

in Heaven, Holy is Your name, Your dominion come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the power the reign, and the glory, now and forever." AMEN

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Blessed Assurance M 238

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + + + + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reverend Marge and Shirley (and others) are away at conference this weekend. They will enjoy a short vacation after conference and be back next weekend. We wish them safety and a good rest which they deserve.

There will be no RAP or Bible Study this coming week. RAP begins on Nov. 13th, with the first of the classic series. "Coming Out." Invite new people to come with you.

New Beginning: Saturday, Nov. 8th, 7:30 P.M., Lafayette Square Clubhouse. We will honor our new board members and celebrate the start of our church's new year. Invite friends. It will be a Pot Luck Dinner!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL PEOPLE BORN IN NOVEMBER!!!



1968-1986

Perhaps the mission of MCC can best be summarized in the words of Elder Emeritus John Hose: "Never losing sight of Jesus' remarkable invitation to all humankind, we have proceeded with dignity, perseverance and veracity to proclaim 'freedom and justice for ALL' by the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
11th Sunday in Dominiontide November 16, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

WELCOME /GREETING OF VISITORS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God rules; let the earth rejoice; let
the many isles be glad.

P: Clouds and darkness are round about God; justice and judgement
are the foundation of God's throne.

L: The heavens proclaim God's justice and all peoples see God's
glory.

P: God loves those who hate evil; and guards the lives of the
faithful. They are delivered from the hand of the wicked.

L: Light dawns for the just and gladness for the upright of heart.

P: Be glad in God, you just and give thanks to God's holy name.

OPENING HYMN: From All That Dwell Below the Skies Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:1-5, 4:5-6 (1-5, 23, 24)
I Peter 5:6-11
Luke 17: 20-21

SERMON: Recognizing the Reign of God Rev. Ragona

HYMN: The Heavenly Vision Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: I Need Thee Every Hour M232

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION: O God, who is light and darkness,
now and endless; hear our prayer, our confession, our sorrow.
We rage against ourselves, humanity and you. We are terribly
lonely and in our loneliness drive you and others away. Forgive
us for what we are becoming, for what we have done, for what we
have not done, and for what we will do again. Be in us a center
of compassion that, day by day, restores us to wholeness, to
trust, and to an honest peace with you, with other people, and
within ourselves. We praise and thank you for the gifts we do
not earn, the strength we do not have, and the forgiveness we do
not deserve. Unto you be all glory and honor, through Jesus the
Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy

is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test
but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign, and the
glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: HOLY, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Now On Land and Sea Descending M45

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY: Buddy Training, 8:00 p.m. at the church. Mike Brock
will be talking about crisis intervention, depression, and suicide.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study. Beginning the Gospel of John. Good place
to start, if you have not been coming. Bring your Bible.

THURSDAY: RAP: TOPIC - "Who do you tell, and how?"

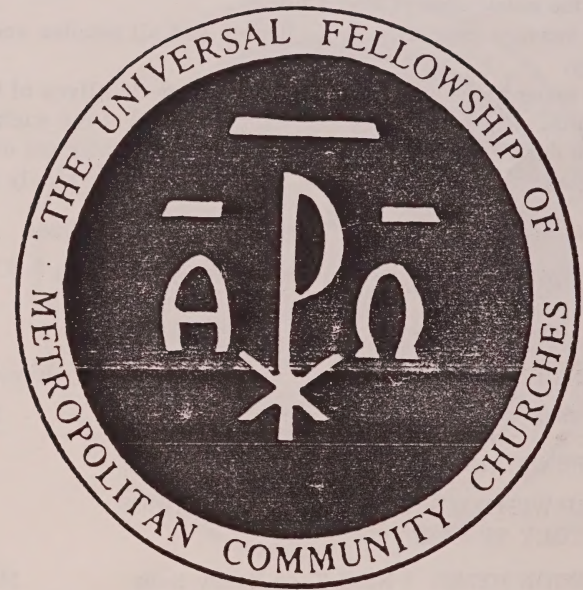
St. Peter's is collecting goodies for Thanksgiving baskets. Let us
contribute, especially those non-food necessities that people who have
food stamps must buy with cash. (Soap, tissue, towel, napkins, etc.)

TUESDAY: Mobile Aids Fund everyone is welcome to attend; please
see Shirley for meeting place (probably Goldenrod) at 7:30.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS - Next Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the church.

THANKSGIVING DAY: Bring a dish befitting the season. Turkey and
dressing (s) will be provided. Anytime after 4 p.m.

RELATIONSHIP WEEKEND -- Jackson, Miss. See Shirley for forms.



1968-1986

Perhaps the mission of MCC can best be summarized in the words of Elder Emeritus John Hose: "Never losing sight of Jesus' remarkable invitation to all humankind, we have proceeded with dignity, perseverance and veracity to proclaim 'freedom and justice for ALL' by the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

Mobile, Alabama 36608
(205) 476-9142

Last Sunday in Dominiontide

November 23, 1986

SINGSPARATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L; God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

P: Therefore, we fear not, though the earth be shaken, and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.

L: Though the waters rage and foam and the mountains quake at its surging.

P: The God of hosts is with us, our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

L: Come, behold the deeds of God, the astounding things God has done on the earth.

P: God stops wars to the ends of the earth, breaks the bow, splinters the spears, and burns the shields with fire.

L; Be still, and confess that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted upon the earth.

P: The God of hosts is with us, our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

OPENING HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Job 23:1-7

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

HYMN: He Touched Me

Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O My God

Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we try to hide from you in prosperity, hurrying after shadows, hiding in the lonely crowd. We pray to you -- not to disturb us; we would like to meet you -- but not today; we hope we may see you -- at a distance that would not embarrass us. We would like to take you seriously -- but at some other time; for we are having too much fun today. This is our sin, our lostness, our illness. God God, who did come to forgive sinners and to heal the sick, and to find the lost, and so share paradise with us; forgive, heal, and find us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray, "Our God in heaven,

holy is your name. Your dominion come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the power, the reign and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Make Me A Blessing

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you. And also with you.

+ + + + +
ANNOUNCEMENTS: This is Thanksgiving Week and there are special things going on, please try to attend and share Thanksgiving with our family!

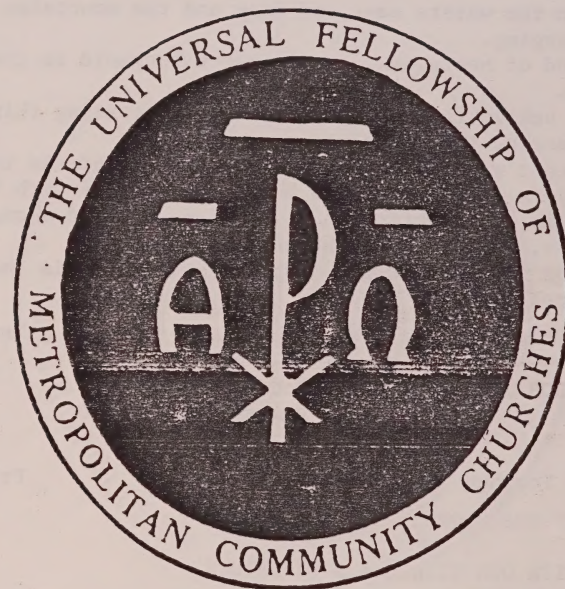
WEDNESDAY: No Bible Study -- We will have our annual Thanksgiving Service at St. Peters. This year the offering will stay at home, but be used to enable people to visit AIDS patients, such as the one at Searcy, by providing gasoline and small gifts to the patient. Please join us and help us make others' lives happier.

THURSDAY: Everyone is welcome at the pastor's and Shirley's home for dinner. Please bring a dish or desert appropriate to the season.

TUESDAY: MGLCC meeting at the Goldenrod. See Shirley or Judson for details.

If you have not had a chance to contribute to the food baskets being prepared by St. Peter's will you please try to contribute something by tomorrow. They have not been able, from their own congregation, to complete the six baskets they traditionally give, and have reached out to us for help. Let's help them help others.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING -- JOIN US -- NO ONE BE ALONE.



1968-1986

Perhaps the mission of MCC can best be summarized in the words of Elder Emeritus John Hose: "Never losing sight of Jesus' remarkable invitation to all humankind, we have proceeded with dignity, perseverance and veracity to proclaim 'freedom and justice for ALL' by the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Ala. 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
THANKSGIVING EVENING November 26, 1986

Call to Worship: L: Praise is due to you, O God; you have
visited the land and watered it;

P: Greatly you have enriched it; the watercourses are filled and
the grain is prepared.

L: You have watered its furrows and broken up the clods; you have
softened it with showers, blessing its yield.

P: You have crowned the year with your bounty; and your paths
overflow with a rich harvest.

L: The untilled meadows overflow with it and rejoicing clothes
the hills.

P: The fields are garmented with flocks and the valleys blanketed
with grain.

TOG: We sing and shout for joy, blessed be your name; praise
is due you, O God.

OPENING HYMN: Come, Ye Thankful People Come Printed

FIRST READING: And the twelve came unto him and said, "Send
the multitude away that they may go into the surrounding villages
and countryside and find lodging and something to eat, for here
we are in a desolate place." But he said to them, "Give them some-
thing to eat."

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

SECOND READING: If a brother or sister is without clothing and
in need of daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace,
be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is
necessary for their body, of what use is that?

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

THIRD READING: "I was hungry and you gave me something to
eat;" "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?" "Truly
I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers
of mine, even to the least of them, you did it to me."

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

FOURTH READING: Now there was a certain rich man who
dressed in fine linen and rich purple, living in splendor every
day; and a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate,
longing to be fed with crumbs from his table.

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

FIFTH READING: And he told them a parable, saying, "The land
of a certain man was very productive, and the man said, "This will
I do, I will tear down my barns and build larger ones and there will
I store all my grain and my goods; I will eat, drink and be merry.
But God said to him, "Fool, this night your soul is required of you."

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

SIXTH READING: And the Lord said, "Who is the faithful and
sensible steward whom the master will put in charge of the servants
to give them their rations at the proper time? Blessed is the
slave whom the master finds so doing when he comes." Remember
the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread.

HYMN: Fill My Cup, Lord

Printed

PRAYER: We are aware, O God, that life is a good gift, meant to
be a call to joy and celebration, and we hear the call to responsibility.
We affirm the good gift of our bodies; enable us to commit ourselves
to the proper nourishment of ourselves and all humanity. Teach us
to share in the spirit of gratitude and hope. Renew in us the hope that
you are at work in us, yielding more results than our
capacity alone. Help us, God, never to pretend that we have not
heard or seen the suffering and needs of the hungry who are around
us. We know we are loved, and from that great love teach us to love
others and how to translate that love into practical action. Keep us
in your love and let us respond freely, gratefully and hopefully when
you show us the needs of others. In Jesus name, we pray -- "Our
God in heaven, holy is your name: Your dominion come, your will
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do
not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the
power, the reign and the glory, now and forever, Amen.

MEDITATION ON THANKSGIVING -

Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together (Vs. 1 and 2)

L212

(Everyone is invited to join us at the altar for communion, those not
wishing communion may stand behind the communicants.)

PASTOR: The Lord Jesus on the same night in which he was betrayed
took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,
"Take and eat: This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in
remembrance of me."

PEOPLE: Lord we remember.

(The bread is passed, and held.)

PASTOR: After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.

PEOPLE: Lord, we remember.

(The cup is passed and the bread is dipped and eaten.)

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.

In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.

In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let another in.

Take, eat and be comforted.

Drink and remember, too, that this is my body and precious blood, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.

In remembrance of me; always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart.

Look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together (Vs. 3) 212

(Let us praise God together)

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.
PASSING OF THE PEACE.

+ + + + + + + + + +

EVERYONE is welcome at our home tomorrow for Thanksgiving dinner. Please bring some dish appropriate to the season, or a relish (olives, cranberry sauce, etc.) to share. We love you all and hope you will celebrate, if only for a little while, some part of Thanksgiving with us.

You enrich our lives - we celebrate you.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING ALL OF YOU -- THANKS BE TO GOD
WHO GIVES US THE VICTORY .



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road

Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor

(205) 476-9142

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 7, 1986

SINGSPIRATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: God, endow your rulers with judgment
and your world with justice.

P: Govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

L: The mountains shall yield peace for the people and the hills justice.

P: God shall defend the afflicted among the people, save the children of the poor, and crush the oppressor.

L: O God, endure as long as the sun and like the moon through all generations;

P: Be like rain coming down on the meadow, like showers watering the earth.

L: Justice shall flower in your day and profound peace, till the moon be no more.

P: You shall rescue the poor man when he cries out and the afflicted when no one is there to help.

L: You shall have pity on the lowly and the poor; you shall save the lives of the poor.

P: From fraud and violence shall you redeem them and precious shall be their blood in your sight.

L: May there be an abundance of grain upon the earth; on the tops of mountains the crops shall rustle.

P: City dwellers shall flourish like the verdure of the fields.

L: My name be blessed forever; as long as the sun shines.

P: In you shall all peoples of the earth be blessed; all nations shall proclaim your happiness.

OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" M84

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Candle 2: Hope.

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON: HOPE FOR THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Angels from the Realms of Glory Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus, the Very Thought Of Thee Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are strangers and sojourners except you are with us. Our days would be lost, but we find them in you. We are a people slow to know mercy until we receive your mercy. Come to us. Sing in us new songs of hope. Teach our prayers our needs. Give us yourself. Be our defender against the evil day and the false prosperity. Be light to our darkness, Word of Love to our fear. Unto you be glory, O Word made flesh, in whose peace we are secure, in whose mercy we are forgiven, and in whose love we are redeemed, forever and ever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

HOLY, holy, holy God of power and grace; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Joy To The World

Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + + + + +

TUESDAY: All counseling time on Tuesday is filled; if you need to talk, please call for another time.

WEDNESDAY: Rap - "MONOGAMY VS. OPEN RELATIONSHIPS"

THURSDAY: Bible Study - John; the meaning of the gospel.

SATURDAY: Red Cross Home Nursing Training for the Buddy Program. We have books for those who have ordered them. Please read the books before Saturday, if possible.

SUNDAY: RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

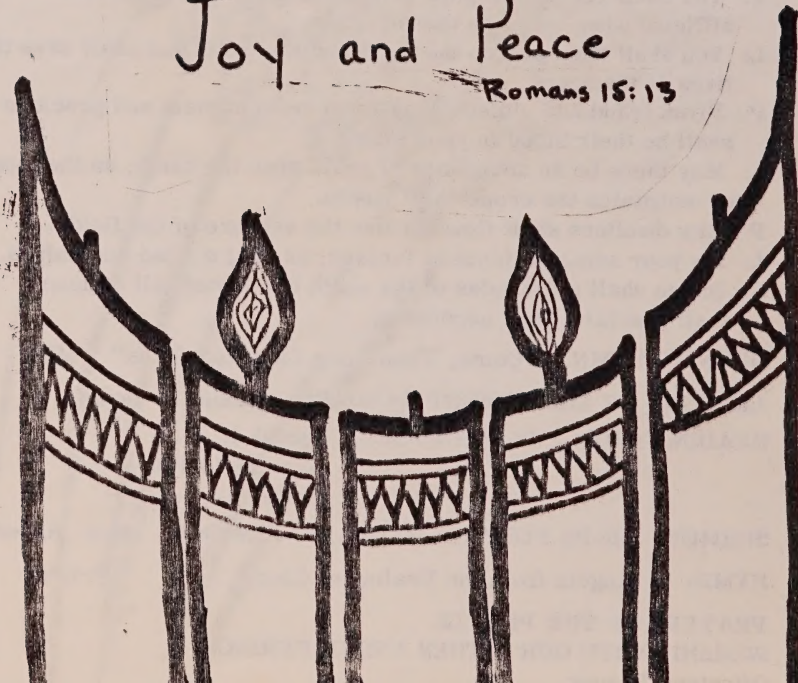
Dec. 26th through January 6th is our annual 12 Nights of Christmas celebration. Please sign up as individuals or groups for a night. Remember there will be caroling in the downtown establishments on Monday, December 22nd, Worship with the Lutrans here at St. Peters on Christmas Eve at 8:30, and Open House at the Pastor's On Christmas day.

Let no one be lonely at Christmas -- ask a friend to join us.

May God,
The Source of Hope,
Fill You
with

Joy and Peace

Romans 15:13



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE

4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476 9142

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 1986

SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: Happy is the one whose help is in God,
whose hope is in God.

P: God made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it; God
keeps faith forever.

L: God delivers justice to the oppressed, gives food to the hungry,
sets the captives free.

P: God gives sight to the blind, raises up those who were bowed
down, and loves the just.

L: God protects strangers, the orphaned and the widowed are
sustained, but the ways of the wicked are thwarted.

P: God shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all
generations. Alleluia.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Third Candle-Joy

OPENING HYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed Printed

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN: I'm So Glad I'm A Part of the Family of God Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON: The Voice From Prison Rev. Ragona

HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Blessed Jesus: In this season of
your coming, tho' the world is dark, we await your light; tho'
there is evil, we expect your mercy; tho' we know as the world
knows, we are hushed before your truth. We have sinned against
innocence, forgotten human sorrow, denied pity, excused ourselves
from love and shunned holiness. Assail us by the bright blows of
grace and make us teachable; that we may again learn the peace
that comes to earth to those of good will; through Jesus the Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying, "Our God in heaven, holy is your

name, your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test,
but deliver us from evil. For yours is the power, the reign and the
glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: HOLY, holy, holy God of power and grace, heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD/THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Heaven Came Down Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of God go with you.
And also with you.

+ + + + + + + +

MONDAY: Bingo at the Goldenrod for Mobile Aids Fund.

TUESDAY: Counseling hours; please make an appointment.

WEDNESDAY: Rap, topic "Role Playing - Butch, femme, leather,
drag," come and address all the roles we play.

THURSDAY: Bible Study, the Gospel of John.

SATURDAY: Let's clean St. Peter's. Volunteers needed to help
give the church a holiday cleaning.

SUNDAY, Dec. 21st, SingSPIration to begin at 6:30, service at 6:45
sharp. Please be on time. We will go caroling downtown after the
service. Please spread the word that we are beginning early.

12 NIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS: We have two activities scheduled, for
Sat., 12/27 and Sun. 12/28. Please sign up for other evenings or
times. You may use the church or the pastor's home if you cannot
use your own. Let us know.

We are receiving four new members this evening; Vickie, Missy,
Pat, and Orrin. We welcome you all as members of our church
family.

Please bring foods to help St. Peter's Christmas baskets brighten
the Christmas of the poor. Nonfood items are also in order, to help
stretch their food stamps.

BE STRONG,
FEAR NOT!
HERE IS YOUR
GOD...

Is 35: 4



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT MOBILE
4500 Bit and Spur Road Mobile, Alabama 36608
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor (205) 476-9142
4th Sunday in Advent December 21, 1986
SINGSPIRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS
WELCOME AND GREETING OF VISITORS

CALL TO WORSHIP: L: My soul doth magnify my God, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

P: For God hath regarded the lowliness of this servant, and behold all generations shall call him blessed.

L: For the Mighty One has magnified me and holy is his name.

P: God's mercy is on those who are in awe throughout all generations.

L: God has shown strength with a mighty arm and scattered the proud in the imaginations of their hearts.

P: God has put down the mighty from their seat and has exalted the humble and meek.

L: God has filled the hungry with good things and the rich have been sent empty away.

P: God, remembering mercy, has befriended Israel, the servant people as was promised to our ancestors for ever.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

OPENING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful Printed

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 7: 10 -14
Romans 1: 1 -12
Matthew 1: 18 -25

SERMON: Emmanuel, God With Us Rev. Ragona

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem Printed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Printed

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God, we try to avoid you, afraid that your grace would tell us our true size and because we are fearful that love would devastate us. We attempt to cushion ourselves against our mortality. We avoid the times when your holy mysteries teach us our true measure. At Christmas we expect magic, fear our loneliness, and dread our despair. O God, make us ashamed that we can settle for the crumbs when we have your plenty. Show

us in the clarity of your coming how peace must speak to turmoil, mercy to brokenness, and love to fear. Touch us by grace, and teach us to run with shepherds and kneel with the magi, that your birth may teach us the honesty of our need for your hand on us, your joy in our lives, and your hope in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray, " Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your dominion come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the power, the reign, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

L: God be with you. P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks. P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy God of power and grace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD ~~THE~~ BLESSING OF THE CUP

THE MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CLOSING HYMN: Silent Night Printed

BENEDICTION: L: God go with you. P: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: THE PEACE OF GOD BE WITH YOU

+ + + + +
"Here We come a'caroling" tonight among our favorite recreational places. After

We thank the "Lutheran Ladies' Societies" who cleaned the church. The Lutherans called with love. Thank you also.

No Rap or Bible Study.

WEDNESDAY: Christmas Eve Service with the Lutherans, 8:30 p.m. Bring a friend or your family - you'll be better for it.

CHRISTMAS DAY: OPEN HOUSE at the pastor's and Shirley's. We will provide the turkey, if you come to dinner, bring a dish. We'll eat about 4:00 p.m. but we'll expect early callers from 2:00 on.

Saturday: Harold and James' Holy Union with reception to follow at Tom and Dean's.

We'll let you know the rest of the 12 days as we know what's coming up. Joe Tate has promised a Dickens' Christmas.

MEET US AT CHRISTMAS

HIS NAME
SHALL BE CALLED
EMMANUEL

MATT 1:23

